■ Sport / A25
Spurs clinch 3rd NBA title

■ Business / B1
JP Morgan expands in RP

■ Across / A18
Pro-GMA Cebu execs tag solon 'persona non grata'

■ Metro / A22
Fish pond wall breached, floods 3 barangays in Malabon

■ Science / B4
Earth-like planet found beyond solar system

Where's the original? Too many tapes spoil the truth

GANYAN TALAGA PAG PIRATED, MARAMI!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Margaux C. Ortiz

IF TOO many cooks spoil the broth, can too many tapes spoil the truth?

With so many individuals claiming to have the

WHERE'S/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Aklanons want to bid farewell to Cardinal Sin

NEW WASHINGTON, Aklan—The caretaker of the ancestral home here of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin is asking church leaders in Manila to bring home the body of the beloved prelate before his interment next week.

Leonila Dacoroon, 74, said that even if the cardinal would not be buried here, she was requesting that Sin's body be brought to his

AKLANONS / A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, June 25, 2005 ★★ 78 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 197 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Demos fail to move GMA

Roco proposes snap election, but Cory calls for prayers

By Leila B. Salaverria and Luige A. del Puerto

MORE than 5,000 protesters comprising a broad political spectrum yesterday demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo but the Chief Executive flatly rejected their call saying she has a mandate to rule.

The protesters marched from Santo Domingo Church but were stopped from proceeding to Liwasang Bonifacio by a phalanx of 1,000 riot police at the Welcome Rotunda. Several hundred pro-Arroyo protesters stood behind the police, waving flags showing peace signs.

Using a flatbed truck adorned with "Oust Gloria" banners, the protesters held their rally instead on Quezon Avenue. The popular "Hello Garci" ring tone blared from time to time. It was spliced from an alleged wiretap indicating Ms Arroyo cheated in the last election.

At nightfall, the leftwing groups and opposition politicians dispersed under a heavy rain, ending a four-hour demonstration.

"This is not the last day of battle," said Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes, who put the number of protesters at 30,000, way beyond the police estimate. Reyes promised more rallies, saying "truth is on our side."

In a fighting speech at the Philsport Arena during the Gawad Kalinga Celebration of Filipino Heroism, the President dismissed calls for her resignation.

"My enemies, those who would take over, say this is the time. Gloria will soon fall, let us now blast her without letup—this government that you set up during Edsa II, that you helped in the last election," she said. "NGOs, Namfrel (National Movement for Free Elections), 100 foreign observers, embassies, they all say that this is the duly elected government."

On Thursday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa launched separate movements to press demands for Ms Arroyo to break her silence on the wiretap. Lacson vowed to flood the nation with copies of the wiretap. De Villa called for the convening of a "truth commission" to look into the allegation that Ms Arroyo rigged the vote.

Former Sen. Raul Roco told the INQUIRER yesterday that the fate of Ms Arroyo should be decided in a snap election before the raging political controversies that have engulfed Malacañang destroyed democracy in the country.

"What is important is for people to act now. Those who cheated should be ousted. Snap elections should be done because

DEMOS/ A6

Tawag Na!
BANK
MAGKAISA PATALSIKIN GLORIA

STANDOFF. Hundreds of protesters demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo are blocked by an equal number of anti-riot policemen at the Welcome Rotunda in yesterday's protest action. The stalemate was broken when the protesters were dispersed by heavy rains later in the day. RYAN LIM

Ex-police general denies Cam's 'jueteng' charges

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

HE WAS never close to Sandra Cam and never asked her to deliver "jueteng" payola to President Macapagal-Arroyo's son and brother-in-law at the House.

And her claim that Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo practiced for weeks to forge the signature of his brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, as owner of the Jose Pidal bank accounts "never happened."

This was the testimony of retired Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, former police regional director of Bicol, at yesterday's resumption of the joint Senate investigation on the illegal numbers racket.

But Mosqueda's blanket denials fell flat in the face of Cam's well-documented counterattack.

Cam, who stood by her earlier testimony that Mosqueda had used her as jueteng bagwoman and depository, presented bank deposit slips, a deed of sale of an Isuzu D-Max, and Mosqueda's handwritten and signed notes on official Philippine National Police stationery.

To Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s challenge, Mosqueda invoked his right to privacy and refused to allow the chamber to look into his bank accounts.

A new witness, Antonio Batacan, testified, but only to corroborate some minor jueteng players identified by the other jueteng witnesses.

The explosive witness who was

EX-POLICE/ A4

Let's hear tape once and for all, solon urges

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE LYRICS may not be to her liking but unless she gives her own take on the tape Congress will have to play it.

Two members of the House joint committee looking into the "Gloria-gate" audio tape yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo that her silence on the alleged wiretap could leave congressmen with no other option.

"The heart and soul of the House inquiry is the playing of the tape," said Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental in an interview.

For the past three hearings this week, Paras had been urging the House panel chaired by Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla to

LET'S HEAR/ A6

SMALL TALK
President Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino share a light moment in Malacañang during yesterday's conferment of the Benigno Aquino Jr. Award for Nationalism. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bishop used as pawn by GMA foes, hints Bunye

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has never received election campaign support from illegal gambling operators, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday as he denied claims by Archbishop Oscar Cruz that the President had benefited from political contributions of a known "jueteng" operator in her home province.

Bunye questioned the independence of Cruz, the antijueteng crusader, noting how these accusations were being brought up "at a time of mounting efforts to destabilize the government."

"We are not accusing Archbishop Cruz of anything but could he just be an unwitting pawn?" the press secretary said.

Cruz had claimed in a speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines last Thursday that Ms Arroyo had obtained mostly propaganda materials from Pampanga jueteng operator, Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, for her vice presidential campaign in 1998 and for president in 2004.

The accusations came amid calls from the opposition for the President to resign following allegations her family had received illegal gambling bribes and that she rigged last year's elections, plunging her administration into its most serious political crisis.

BISHOP/ A6

Tarongoy's US colleague still in abductors' hands

FILIPINO officials tried to win the release of a United States hostage held along with Robert Tarongoy but were rebuffed by the Iraqi abductors who released Tarongoy this week, a senior diplomat said yesterday.

Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said Tarongoy, who returned home on Thursday, told officials that his American coworker Roy Hallums was still alive, but that he did not see him because he was blindfolded and bound during nearly eight months in captivity.

"He said he heard him and could feel him," Seguis quoted Tarongoy as saying about Hallums, who he said was likely kept in the same room.

The two were working for the Saudi Arabian Trading and Construction Co., supplying food to the Iraqi army, when they were kidnapped in Baghdad on Nov. 1, 2004.

Seguis said he and other Filipino officials in Team Iraq who worked for the release of Tarongoy tried to negotiate freedom for both men, but the abductors told them to pursue only Tarongoy.

"We told them, include Hallums, [but] they said, 'Let the Americans be the ones to talk to us,'" Seguis told a press briefing yesterday.

The team of Filipino negotiators then decided to concentrate on securing Tarongoy's release, he said.

Hallums was shown in a video last January pleading for his life. Nothing has been heard from him since.

In Corona, California, Hallums' ex-wife, Susan Hallums, said she screamed with joy when she learned that Tarongoy had been released, hoping that the American may also be freed soon.

"That was a miracle ... and I hope the next miracle happens," Mrs. Hallums said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Seguis said Tarongoy was dropped off at a Baghdad check-

TARONGOY'S / A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/25/05

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senga to replace Abu as AFP chief

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga as the new Armed Forces chief of staff but extended the term of retiring Gen. Efren Abu "to ensure smooth transition of military leadership."

The 55-year-old Senga—who, as former battalion and brigade commander, led operations against communist and Muslim rebels—will assume the post in August, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, currently head of the special operations command, will take over as army chief, he added.

Abu reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 yesterday. A former classmate of visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bamban Yudhoyono, Abu is expected to be appointed ambassador to Indonesia.

Senga would serve as AFP chief of staff for less than a year. He is scheduled to retire on July 21, 2006.

A 1972 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Senga underwent training at the US Army Infantry School in Fort Bragg, the US Defense Intelligence College and the US Pacific Command, as well as in the United Kingdom and Israel.

He has a master's degree in business administration from Ateneo de Manila University and completed two years of law in the same university.

Other contenders for the top military post were Navy chief Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon, Senga's classmate at the PMA, and AFP Southern Command (Southcom) chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza.

Bunye did not cite any reason why Senga was handpicked by the President who has kept even his top officials, including Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a former general, guessing on her choice to replace Abu.

On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, without giving any reason, postponed a military parade to honor Abu on Friday, eight months after he was appointed.

Ermita acknowledged Thursday that a turnover of command had to be postponed in view of scheduled protests by Ms Arroyo's critics and reported plans to destabilize the government.

Ms Arroyo is being hounded by accusations that her family pocketed illegal gambling payoffs and that she rigged last year's election. The charges have set off fresh coup rumors.

Both houses of Congress have started separate investigations into claims of election cheating and illegal gambling payoffs.

About 5,000 anti-Arroyo protesters marched on Friday, calling on Ms Arroyo to quit over the allegations.

Senga is seen as an expert in intelligence and psychological warfare.

Before becoming army chief, Senga served as AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, deputy chief of staff for intelligence and commander of the army's counterterrorism group.

He was the AFP spokesperson during the second People Power revolt in January 2001 when the military top brass withdrew its support for former president Joseph Estrada.

As commander of the 6th Army Infantry Division in Central Mindanao, Senga led the campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that led to the capture of their base in Buliok Complex in Pikit, Cotabato, and Pagalungan, Maguindanao. *AP, Reuters with a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

IN AND OUT: Abu (right) with successor Senga

EDWIN BACASMAS

Finally, Barbers concedes defeat

By Armand N. Nocum

FORMER Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday finally conceded defeat in the senatorial race after the Supreme Court threw out his petition to nullify the resolution of the Commission on Elections declaring Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon as the duly elected 12th senator in the May 2004 national and local elections.

In a statement, Barbers also ordered his lawyer "not to file a motion for reconsideration and respect the decision of the Supreme Court."

Under the law, Barbers has 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration.

"I would like to congratulate Senator Biazon in this close fight for the final slot in the senate seat and for being an officer and a gentleman all throughout the time that the issue was being resolved," Barbers said in a statement.

Barbers said his decision is aimed at "uniting the nation and healing the political wounds of the country and focus on improving the lives of our countrymen."

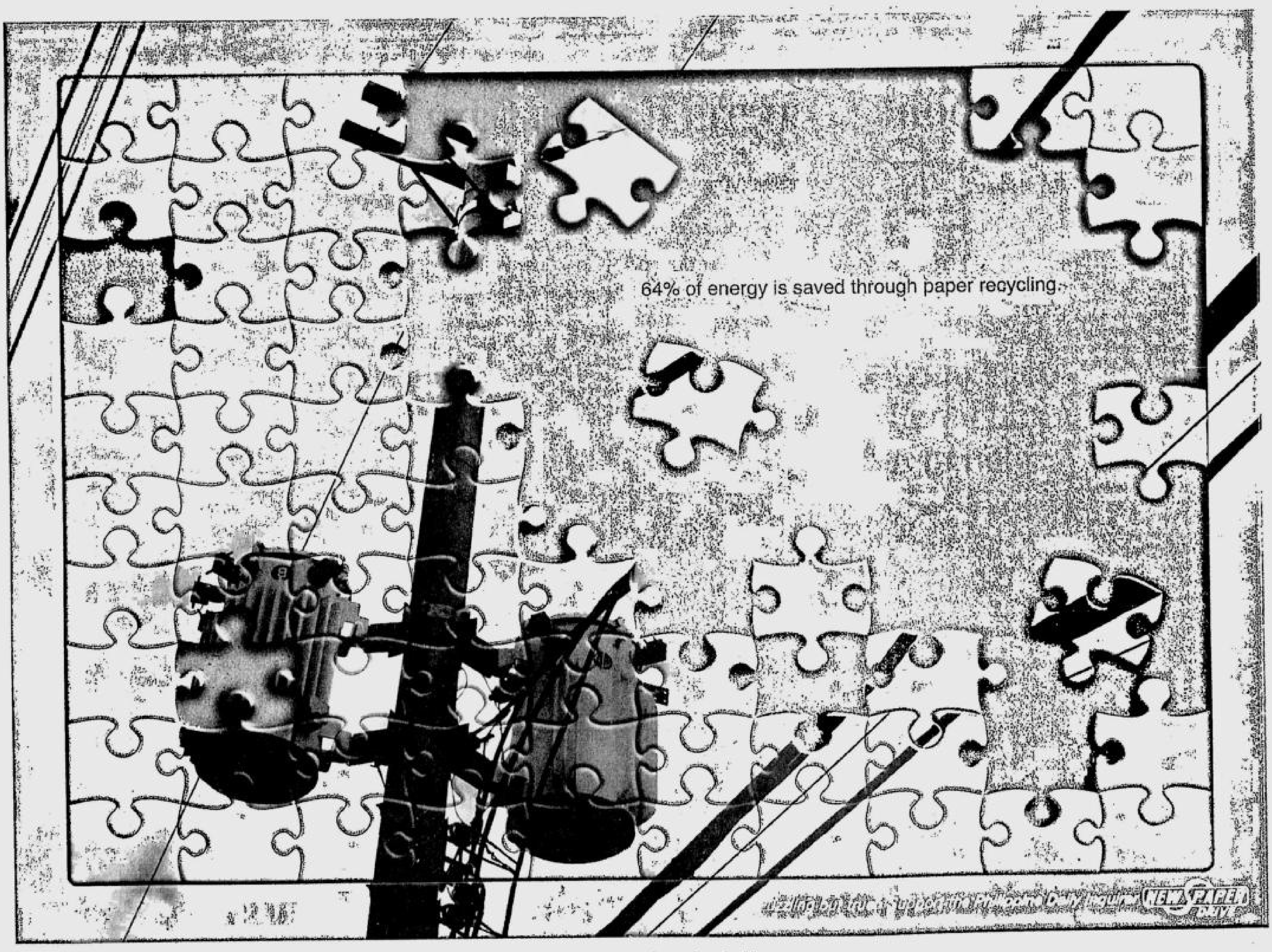
The high tribunal handed down its decision as the name of Barbers and Biazon have figured in an audio tape of an alleged conversation between Barbers and former Commission on Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, whereby Barbers asked Garcillano to pad his vote by 70,000 in exchange for P2 million.

In its resolution, the Supreme Court said it dismissed Barbers' petition because it was the wrong venue for filing the petition.

"Indisputably, the resolution of such dispute falls within the sole jurisdiction of the (Senate Electoral Tribunal). For this court to take cognizance of the electoral protest against Biazon would usurp the constitutional functions of the SET," the resolution penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said.

Likewise, the court ruled that Comelec "did not commit any grave abuse of discretion in issuing the assailed resolution affirming Biazon's proclamation since the uncanvassed returns and the results of the election to be held would not materially affect the results of the elections."

In the Comelec count, Biazon won over Barbers by a margin of 10,685 votes.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NEWSPAPER DRIVE

Energy consumption in full power

Energy consumption is at an all time high in this day and age of automation. Power utilization has become an indispensable part of a modern lifestyle where work is electricity-dependent, and leisure is even battery-powered.

However, we can all do our share in energy preservation through paper recycling. Because paper is being reused instead, energy use in raw material extraction and processing is therefore eliminated. Energy consumption of paper mills which count among the largest is decreased. Conserved energy sums up to something that can be valuably used by future generations.

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Tagaytay vacation estate 'co-owned' by Cam, Mosqueda

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ALFONSO, Cavite—Residents of this quiet town located near the boundary of Tagaytay City are talking about a vacation estate, a nine-unit apartment building and a school still under construction—all supposedly owned by "jueteng" whistle-blower Sandra Cam and retired Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda.

Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said that Mosqueda acquired the vacation estate in Barangay Taywanak Ilaya using money he received from jueteng operators when he was still police director of Bicol; that a unit at the apartment row in Barangay Luksuhin Ilaya served as "love nest" for Cam and Mosqueda; and that the school in Barangay Pajo was a joint venture between the couple and a son of Alfonso Mayor Jose Pestano.

Reached on her mobile phone, Cam denied having had an intimate relationship with Mosqueda: "That's not true. I know General Mosqueda is doing everything to discredit me."

But Cam, who had alleged in earlier interviews that she used to raise P3.5 million in jueteng money monthly for Mosqueda, said she had represented him in his dealings with the local government of Alfonso.

The 4.6-hectare vacation estate is a kilometer from the town proper. Except for an unusual hanging bridge, it looks like the average retirement place in nearby Tagaytay when viewed from outside.

But there are two big swimming pools on the estate, according to Purisima Martinez, Cam's elder sister.

She told the INQUIRER that all the "nipa huts" on the estate were fully air-conditioned and elegantly furnished: "It's like you're in a hotel."

4 years ago

A police official said the estate was offered to Mosqueda by a certain SPO4 Melencio Base, supposedly a native of the area and one of the retired general's trusted men during his stint as director of the Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame.

Mosqueda supposedly purchased the property almost four years ago.

Barangay Captain Manolito Galang said the estate comprised four adjacent idle lots that Mosqueda bought from Elpidio Hermoso and Herman del Mundo.

Recently, Mosqueda acquired the bordering lots from Manuel Cron and Gara Pel, Galang said.

The property has neither been valued nor recorded in the municipal registry of deeds.

But according to Galang, the maximum price that the lots can fetch is P200 per square meter.

Controversy

An official at the municipal engineering office said the estate had sparked a controversy even before Cam testified against Mosqueda at the Senate inquiry into jueteng.

"They (the owners) kept on violating the building code despite our notices," the official said. "When we tried to inspect the area, the guards refused to let us in. They said a general owned it."

When the INQUIRER visited the property, a number of workers were mixing cement near the main gate. No building permit was on display.

Galang said residents had complained that Mosqueda's bodyguards were firing guns indiscriminately. He said he himself had an argument with the bodyguards regarding this matter last Jan. 16.

But most of the residents are worried that the two swimming pools will drain the community's water supply, Galang said.

He said Mosqueda's men had built a fence around a portion of the creek, the main water source of households in the barangay.

"The water pressure became weak when construction of the swimming pools started," he said.

No-show

The engineering official said that sometime in March, Mayor Pestano ordered him to summon the owner of the property.

But only Cam showed up.

Pestano told the INQUIRER that it was his first time to meet Cam.

"She came to my office with a lawyer," the mayor said. "She said she represent[ed] General Mosqueda. They talked with my municipal engineer about how to solve the problem."

Three more notices were sent to Mosqueda by the engineering office, to no avail.

The engineering official said Mosqueda should have paid P17,000 in penalties for the violations, and should have also stopped construction activities.

Receipts

Speaking with the INQUIRER by mobile phone, Cam said Mosqueda had sent her copies of the notices with instructions on what to do.

She said that Mosqueda had also asked her to oversee the interior decoration of each of the seven nipa huts on the vacation estate, and that she hired engineer Max Talamante—also the contractor of her school—for the construction of the swimming pools.

According to Cam, she herself bought the materials used for the hanging bridge, which, she said, amounted to P280,000.

"I still have copies of the receipts and all the documents [concerning] the hanging bridge and the swimming pools," she said.

"The land was small at first. But when he became the regional director in Bicol, he started buying other lots near his property and developed it as his rest [area]," she said.

Apartment

Cam denied that the apartment she used to occupy in Luksuhin Ilaya was hers, and that it was her and Mosqueda's "love nest."

She said it belonged to one Larry Gamboa, who offered one of the apartments for P15,000 a month on a rent-to-own basis for 25 years.

She said she started occupying her yellow-painted unit when she paid P150,000 as down payment late last year.

Purisima Martinez, who is now occupying a unit next to Cam's, said Mosqueda came to the apartment only once—last April.

Six units of the apartment row located a few meters from the national highway going to Nasugbu, Batangas, are still vacant.

Per a streamer hanging outside one of the units, each apartment has two bedrooms, an attic, two toilets, and a bathtub.

Nazareth Institute

Cam admitted that she owned the Nazareth Institute of Alfonso, which is built on a 2,600-square-meter lot owned by Mayor Pestano in Pajo.

The school, which opened for classes on June 15, now has 72 elementary and high school students, 15 teachers and four support staffers.

Purisima Martinez is in charge of operations.

Cam insisted that she did not use jueteng money for the school.

"What I used for this business was the money I got from the sale of my properties in Mindoro and Masbate. I am still in debt with hardware stores in Alfonso," she said.

Expenses for the school have reached P2 million, she said.

Asked if Mosqueda and Pestano were her partners in the school, Cam said she was the sole owner.

But she said Pestano's son, Jorge, was one of the incorporators, supposedly because the mayor had allowed use of the lot as his son's share in the business.

Securities and Exchange Commission records reveal an interesting entry:

The school's articles of incorporation dated Feb. 21 list Mosqueda's wife Marilyn as among the incorporators, along with Cam, Jorge Pestano, Martinez, and a Luz Cordova.

The documents bore Marilyn's signatures as well as her residence certificate and tax identification numbers. Her address was listed as Taywanak, Alfonso, Cavite.

Glib-tongued

Per the documents, Cam, Marilyn Mosqueda and Jorge Pestano each contributed P250,000; Martinez, P100,000; and Cordova, P150,000.

Mayor Pestano, who described Cam as glib-tongued, said she invited him to join the school venture after meeting her through Mosqueda.

He said she promised to help him get financial support from Malacañang and the senators for his projects in Alfonso.

Pestano said Cam won his trust when she accompanied him and three other Cavite mayors to the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita two months ago.

He said they had sought Ermita's help in releasing P20 million for a hospital project for the towns of Alfonso, Indang, Mendez, General Aguinaldo and Amadeo.

"That's when I saw that she was really known in Malacañang. The guards were very attentive when we arrived. Almost everybody greeted her," the mayor said, adding:

"I said to myself, *'Matindi pala talaga ang babaeng ito* (This woman is really something).'"

'It's up to you'

Pestano said that after Cam came forward to talk about jueteng, he told his son to withdraw from the school business.

"She convinced me, but I never thought that she had other intentions in mind. All I wanted then was a clean, legal business partnership. She has ruined my trust," the mayor said.

He said his lawyer had filed a petition to withdraw at the SEC.

But Cam said she expected more "demolition" jobs to come her way.

"It's up to you whom you want to believe. All I have is the truth," she told the INQUIRER.

Ex-police general denies Cam's 'jueteng' charges

From page A1

supposedly to implicate members of the President's family was a no-show.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago managed to extract a statement from Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz that there would be no witness against the President herself.

Santiago later told reporters she would "suggest" to her colleagues that they terminate the inquiry.

3 lawyers

Assisted by three lawyers, Mosqueda disclaimed involvement in jueteng and denied Cam's claim that she deposited around P28 million in payola into his bank accounts or handed the money to him in cash.

He said Cam had frequented his office, once bringing "two bundles of *santol*" as a gift, befriended his wife Marilyn and used her as guarantor for Cam's various loans.

He said Cam owed him and his wife around P600,000.

In their first confrontation under oath, Mosqueda said in a distinct Visayan accent: "She's lying through her teeth."

To which Cam replied: "Mr. Mosqueda, you're a congenital liar."

Cam presented Mosqueda's notes to her, written on PNP stationery, telling her he would "clear [his] supply accountability" with her and asking her to sign a deed of sale for the Isuzu D-Max shortly before his retirement last May.

"He's a very careless general, Mr. Chairman. He is," Cam said.

She said Mosqueda even signed a separate note for the P1.04-million "balance" for the purchase of the pickup truck.

Mosqueda admitted writing the notes to Cam, but said that was because he was "offering to buy" the vehicle to enable her to pay her loans.

Cam denied this, saying Mosqueda had asked her to buy the vehicle using his jueteng payola, as well as a Toyota Revo for him and his wife.

She presented bank documents showing she withdrew P400,000 on Jan. 17, 2004, and another P540,000 two days later from the jueteng deposits to buy the Revo.

Mikey and Iggy

"Except for deposits made by Ms Cam in my account for payments of her numerous loan obligations to my wife, I never received any money from her [or] her representatives," Mosqueda said, adding:

"Neither did I tell her to deliver money to Congressmen Mikey (the President's elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo) and Iggy Arroyo. Her own testimony shall discredit her accusations and allegations as her story is not only inconsistent but [also] extremely contrary to common human nature and logic."

Cam said in the previous hearing that Mosqueda had asked her to collect P1 million a month from August 2004 to February 2005, and that on one occasion last December, he asked her to deliver P900,000 to Mikey and Iggy Arroyo at the House.

"About the money I allegedly asked from her to be given to a *'hari'* (king) and [the two Arroyos], I categorically deny such incidents occurred," Mosqueda said in a 27-page affidavit he read aloud.

He said that he knew the two Arroyos "officially," not personally, and that he had no business dealing with the President's relatives.

'Malayo sa bituka'

But Mosqueda denied only the part about him asking Cam to deliver the money to the two Arroyos.

"From her own lips, it is crystal clear that Ms Cam collects from jueteng operators herself and she uses her own accounts for the said purpose ... So if there is anyone who should be getting and giving out money, it is Sandra Cam herself," he said.

Mosqueda said it would be illogical for him to grease the two Arroyos because they were not representing Bicol.

"Malayo sa bituka," he said. "Can they protect or hamper [jueteng] operations?"

He wondered why he would take the trouble to ingratiate himself with the Arroyos when he was months away from retirement.

Mosqueda also denied claiming he could have brought the Arroyo administration down if he did not certify Iggy Arroyo's Jose Pidal signature as authentic.

"I categorically deny that there ever occurred an incident that Congressman Iggy Arroyo practiced the signature of the First Gentleman. It never happened and I never said anything to that effect," he said.

Mosqueda said Cam also lied by saying she once served as board member of Masbate, producing a certification from the local election official.

He denied having a lawyer-brother in the United States who was a classmate of Iggy Arroyo.

"Some witnesses come and go, and honorable members, this witness Cam must go," he said.

Later, Santiago said both Cam and Mosqueda could be lying.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the accounts of the two were shot through with holes.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Mosqueda could be cited for contempt for perjuring himself.

"Based on the handwritten note alone, you could see that he was lying," Lacson said.

'Dimwit'

Speaking for Mikey Arroyo, lawyer Grace Maduramente took exception to Cam's statement that the President's elder son was a dimwit (*"mahina ang ulo"*) because he supposedly failed to recognize her when Masbate Rep. Narciso Bravo Jr. introduced them.

"You can see such an obvious display here of deliberate malice, of an intention to smear the reputation of the Arroyos and the administration to serve the ends of her handlers," Maduramente said in a statement.

She added: "My client is an Ateneo [de Manila] graduate, took graduate studies in the US, is a past and present duly elected public official, has introduced important legislation, and is a participant in the important debates in the House.

"And here comes Ms Cam dismissing him so cavalierly as *'mahina ang ulo.'* This uncultured and uncalled-for remark speaks volumes about her breeding and quality—or utter lack of it—as a credible witness."

Maduramente also said the "perjuring" Cam had "dug herself into a deeper hole" with her testimony.

Denials

Bravo said that as far as he could recall, he did not introduce Cam to Mikey Arroyo.

He was referring to Cam's claim that he introduced her to Mikey Arroyo last February when she went to the House to lobby for Mosqueda's extension of service as PNP regional director of Bicol.

But Bravo confirmed that Cam—whom he described as "a friend and right hand of Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho"—visited him at the House "to discuss the petition for Mosqueda's extension."

"What I do recall is that it was sometime early this year, [but] I did not introduce Congressman Mikey Arroyo to Ms Cam. I am puzzled why she made that claim when that incident never happened," Bravo said.

Cam also claimed that Rep. Hermilando Mandanas (LP, Batangas) chanced on her while she was with Bravo and Arroyo on the session floor. She said he even kissed her on the cheek.

Mandanas, however, disputed Cam's story on several "crucial points."

He recalled seeing Cam one day early this year at the session hall, but not "with any other [lawmaker]."

He said he was walking on the passageway between the session hall and the left side of the visitors' gallery facing the Speaker's rostrum when he saw Cam waving from the first row of the gallery.

He said he knew Cam from his "days with the Reporma party."

"I paused and we bussed each other's cheek over the balcony that separates the visitors' gallery and the session hall passageway. But we didn't talk long as I was in a hurry," said Mandanas.

Charges

Cam's lawyer, Frank Chavez, said she would file charges of violation of RA 9287 (or the act penalizing the involvement of government officials in illegal numbers games) against Mikey and Iggy Arroyo.

Asked when they intended to file the charges, Chavez said: "Next week, if this government is still in place."

Cam had earlier been charged with libel by the two Arroyos who filed the suits in their respective provinces. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac*

Where's the original? Too many tapes spoil the truth

From page A1

definitive, original copy of the purported Gloria-Garci tapes, the National Bureau of Investigation is having difficulty in authenticating the phone conversation on the fixing of the election results.

"How can the NBI finish its validation of the CDs when we can not even say what is original and what is not original? They (the opposition) have done nothing but shout claims that they have the original CD," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in an interview with radio station dzXL.

After former President Joseph Estrada's lawyer Alan Paguia came out in public claiming to have the original CD of the alleged wiretapped conversation between the President and an Election Commissioner, "another fellow (former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong) has come out boasting of having the grandmother of all tapes," said Ermita.

"When will all this end? If they say there are 20 original CDs out there, we [would] have to look at each disc," he said in explaining why the NBI had not yet verified the original CD after the opposition claimed that it had been certified by voice experts in Australia and the US since last week.

"Everyone can see that those destabilizing the government are just muddling the issue to achieve what they have been coveting. They would even destroy the prestige of the presidency just to get what they want," Ermita said.

Where's Garci?

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye would have to share the blame in stirring the confusion on the Gloria-Garci tapes. After playing two versions of the CDs in a June 6 press conference and acknowledging that it was the voice of the President on the tapes, Bunye backtracked a few days later claiming he was only 98 percent sure it was the President.

Aside from the delays in verifying the tapes, Ermita also took pains to explain why the Palace had ignored calls for the government to produce former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano who has made himself scarce since the tapes surfaced.

"We cannot take steps to find Garcillano and force him to come out because it will only reinforce the perception of many that Malacañang really controls Garcillano. They might suspect us of harboring Garcillano. We have no idea of his whereabouts," said Ermita.

"It's not right to think that Malacañang has control of everything. It's not true that he (Garcillano) is under our control, he is with the Comelec and that is a separate body," he said.

Original blank CDs

While the NBI is gathering all the "original" copies of the purported Gloria-Garci tapes, vendors in Baclaran are peddling CDs which they claim contain the alleged wiretapped conversation on the election fixing.

However, the CDs turned out to be blank, according to a source at the NBI.

The source said that while NBI agents were monitoring the optical CD market upon the order of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez the other day, they came upon vendors selling the alleged "Gloriagate" CDs for P30.

The source added that the peddlers refused to test the CDs "for fear of being apprehended by law enforcers."

"We later discovered that the CDs were blank," the source said, adding that the enterprising individuals had taken advantage of the present political situation to earn extra income.

No CDs in Manila

"We could not charge them for possession of wiretapped materials because the CDs contained nothing," the source said, adding in jest that the most they could do was to charge the vendors with estafa.

NBI-Intellectual Property Rights Division chief Jose Justo Yap yesterday told reporters that his agents were not able to find copies of the controversial CD when they made the rounds in Sta.Cruz, Quiapo and other parts of Manila where the discs were allegedly being sold.

He added that they would also check out ambulant and militant groups handing out the CDs in rallies.

"We are continuously monitoring these areas for the CDs," the NBI official said.

Penalty of imprisonment

Yap earlier said that Gonzalez had ordered the NBI to arrest peddlers caught selling the CDs in the metropolis.

The Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), an urban poor group, had given out copies of the CD in Baclaran, Parañaque City in mid-June, prompting Gonzalez to issue the order.

Yap said that while peddlers caught selling pirated CDs could be imprisoned for 30-60 days for violating the Optical Media Law and Intellectual Property Code, a breach of the Anti-Wiretapping Law "is a bigger offense with more serious penalties."

Yap explained that mere possession of wiretapped material could lead to an imprisonment of six months to six years.

COLUMNIST Johnny Mercado, left, and Cebu Daily News editor-in-chief Ivan Suansing with Eileen Mangubat, publisher of CDN after receiving their awards.

Mercado, Cebu Daily News win Rotary journalism awards

JOHNNY Mercado, a columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Cebu Daily News, Thursday shared the Manila Rotary Club Award for Opinion Writer of the Year with Jarius Bondoc of the Philippine Star.

The Cebu Daily News, a sister paper of the INQUIRER, won the Regional Newspaper of the Year Award. Ivan Suansing, editor in chief of the CDN, received the trophy on behalf of the paper.

Mercado was cited for "the erudition and moral integrity of his column 'Viewpoint' in the INQUIRER as well as his Depthnews writings which are shared generously with the provincial press, enabling the latter to improve the content of their newspapers."

Cebu Daily News was cited for "clean, eye-friendly layout and creative display of photos that enhance the relevance and impact of stories of interest to the readers across the Visayas."

Other awardees were the Sun Star Publications, Newspaper of the Year; dwIZ, Radio Station of the Year; Jose Taruc, Broadcast Journalist of the Year; Kara Patria C. David of GMA 7, Investigative Reporter of the Year;

Kristin Karen Davila of ABS-CBN, Broadcast Journalist of the Year for Television; Reyster Langit, Posthumous Award for dedication and commitment to the highest ideals of journalism; and Reynante "Rey" Langit of dwIZ, Hall of Fame Awardee, Radio Journalist.

Extortion at HUDCC

By Cynthia D. Balana

A SUSPECTED extortionist in the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) who has been victimizing landowners and homeowners' association was arrested yesterday in an entrapment operation of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), identified the suspect as Nestor Favila, former head of the Task Force Community Mortgage Program of the NHMFC, an agency under the HUDCC.

De Castro said the entrapment operation was prompted by a complaint from Leonila Bitacura, a member of the NAIS Homeowners Association, Inc. from Cacarong Matanda in Pandi, Bulacan.

He said the HUDCC had received complaints against Favila, who had allegedly been demanding grease money from land owners and members of homeowners' association doing business with the agency. Favila was caught with P85,000 in his drawer which, De Castro said, represented grease money he collected for the day.

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Demos fail to move GMA; Cory calls for prayers

From page A1

there was cheating," he said, referring to the 2004 balloting.

Asked if he would be willing to offer himself as an alternative to Ms Arroyo, the man who turned his back on politics a year ago said, "I will do what is right to help the people. I will help the people find the right leader."

During a ceremony at Malacañang for Benigno Aquino Award for Nationalism named after her assassinated husband, former President Corazon Aquino was asked by reporters about De Villa's proposal that she lead the truth commission.

Aquino replied: "I think the best thing we can do for our country is to pray for each other, pray for our leaders and as always, I would advise that we stick to sobriety and just follow the rules."

Lacson on Thursday night attended for the first time a meeting of the United Opposition in San Juan the other night, along with allies and supporters of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

The opposition was split during the last election after Lacson had a falling out with Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino faction of Sen. Edgardo Angara, who endorsed Poe as the party's presidential candidate.

First step

"Perhaps this is the first step to truly unite the opposition for a common cause. We want the country to know the truth," Lacson told reporters.

Militant groups like Bayan Muna, which joined the protest to oust jailed former President Joseph Estrada in 2001, were also at the meeting. Also present were Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, sons of deposed President Estrada.

The meeting was largely devoted to discussions on the alleged wiretapped conversations of Ms Arroyo and Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Most of the prominent politicians who joined the meeting were one in asking the President to break her silence on the tapes.

UNO leaders said that should Ms Arroyo admit she talked to former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, she will have no choice but to resign. If she denies it, people will not believe her, they added.

Also yesterday, officials announced the National Capital Region Command had been placed on red alert beginning 10 p.m. on Thursday "due to the internal security situation brought about by the planned antigovernment mass actions and mobilization."

The Philippine National Police (PNP) went on full alert on Wednesday. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Philip C. Tubeza, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño*

Abat calls off march on Palace

RETIRED Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat yesterday called off his much-vaunted march on Malacañang today in deference to Jaime Cardinal Sin, the archbishop of Manila who died during the week.

Abat made the announcement during an interview over dzBB early yesterday morning.

"*Wala na muna*," Abat told anchorman Mike Enriquez.

But Abat also laughed off reports that arrest warrants were issued against him in connection with a case of inciting to sedition filed against him also on Thursday.

"That's what they said, that's what the media said," Abat said in Filipino.

A former defense secretary, Abat vowed to lead his group, the Coalition for National Solidarity (CNS) in a "People's Peaceful and Non-Violent March (on) Malacañang" on Saturday.

According to him, the march would be the "first and last gathering" for the CNS. "If it does not succeed, it will be a symbol of defeat (for us)," he said in a press conference.

'Let's hear tape once and for all'

From page A1

play the tape in which Ms Arroyo was purportedly talking with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the 2004 election.

He said administration lawmakers should stop "grandstanding," debating endlessly on rules, procedures and constitutional provisions.

Paras said National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco had admitted before the joint investigation of five House committees that his agency still did not have the wiretapped materials.

Wycoco had said that the two compact discs (CDs) submitted by Malacañang for "further investigation" had not been proven to be the product of wiretapping.

Paras said that in view of Wycoco's revelation there was no legal impediment for the playing of the tape.

"Precisely, let's hear the tape. If her allies claim it was not her voice, then what's the fuss?" said Paras.

Climax

"If they can play it in Malacañang and in the NBI, why can't we play it inside the halls of Congress?" said Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano who likened the tape to the climax of a movie.

"Everyone wants to see the end—or at least the conclusion to a story no matter how [convoluted] the story line may be," said Cayetano.

Cayetano, a lawyer, told the INQUIRER that even members of the majority bloc in the House would want to hear the tape "because they don't want to be seen as blocking the momentum of truth from taking its own course."

He explained that currently the congressional inquiry was chaotic because there was "no rejoinder of issues," or stipulation of facts, legal parlance used in a court of law to speed up the trial by first establishing basic immutable facts.

"Malacañang's tactic (to parry the accusation) is to employ a shifting, moving position," said Cayetano. He said in the beginning, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had threatened to arrest anyone in possession of the tape, but he now stressed that only those who had claimed to be possessing wiretapped tapes could be arrested.

Besides the appearance of ex-NBI deputy chief Samuel Ong, the turning point in the inquiry would be Gonzalez's testimony. Ong has disappeared after announcing he has the original wiretap. Ong had said it was given to him by a military intelligence agent.

"Once Secretary Gonzalez takes the witness stand, the momentum of truth will lead to the playing of the tape. Gonzalez, as justice chief, will stipulate the legal position of the Republic of the Philippines as regards the tape. Then it will be clear from that point," said Cayetano.

During the past hearings, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Wycoco staunchly defended Ms Arroyo by not commenting on whether the female voice in the recording belonged to her. The inquiry adjourned Thursday and will resume next Wednesday.

Copies admitted

On Wednesday night, the minority scored a breakthrough when the chairpersons of the five committees ruled to admit copies of the audio tape proffered by Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero which could be used as evidence later.

Escudero's compact disc was given to him by lawyer Alan Paguia, who had claimed to have the "original" wiretap, apart from the CDs presented by Bunye last June 6 to the Malacañang press corps and Ong's.

Also yesterday, Rep. Roilo Golez of Parañaque said Ms Arroyo's credibility is "plunging" within military circles with her continued silence.

"For the sake of the country, the President must speak 'now' and tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth on the audio tapes ... before it is too late," said Golez, chair of the House defense committee and Ms Arroyo's former national security adviser. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Bishop used as pawn by GMA foes, hints Bunye

From page A1

"The President never benefited from the proceeds of illegal gambling," said Bunye, adding that the timing of Cruz's accusations was questionable.

He said the allegations could be part of a plot to destabilize the government, but that the President has no intention of stepping down.

"The President will not turn her back on her mandate. She has completed Phase 1 of her reforms. She intends to see other reforms through," he said.

Cruz, anticipating that his charges against Ms Arroyo may be used by her opponents, told reporters: "It is clear that some people might take advantage of what we are doing but in my conscience, in my heart of hearts, I will not let myself be used."

The bishop, who launched a campaign against jueteng four years ago, has presented several witnesses in an ongoing Senate investigation on illegal gambling. *Gil Cabacungan Jr. and AP*

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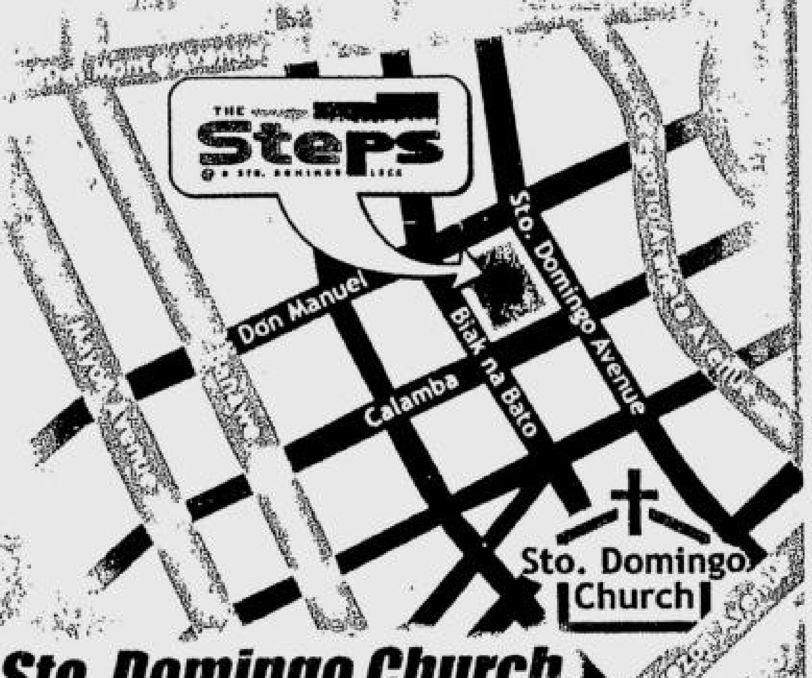
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Gov't wants judge out of Piatco case

THE OFFICE of the Solicitor General has asked the Supreme Court to order the inhibition of the Pasay City judge who ordered the release of $62.3 million to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), the consortium that built the expropriated Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The OSG also asked the high tribunal to nullify and set aside the rulings issued by Pasay Judge Henrick F. Gingoyon, ordering the release of $62.3 million to Piatco and denying the government's motion for reconsideration and motion to inhibit.

The government took over the mothballed Naia 3 from Piatco last December following a Supreme Court decision affirming Malacañang's revocation of the government contract with Piatco, but said it was committed to paying just compensation to the consortium and its shareholders.

In his Jan. 4 order, Gingoyon ordered the government to make a down payment to Piatco of $62.3 million, $9 million more than the assessment made by the government in its petition for expropriation, which the judge earlier approved.

In its complaint, the OSG said the order would "immediately benefit Piatco" and cause the government to "suffer grave and irreparable injury."

According to the OSG, the government cannot release its $53 million (about P3 billion) deposited with the Land Bank of the Philippines as other claimants were also entitled to compensation, including contractor Takenaka Corp., which is asking for $70 million.

It said Gingoyon had committed "grave abuse of discretion and acted in excess of his jurisdiction" when he ordered the Land Bank to immediately release the government's deposit to Piatco.

It also said the judge had ordered the release of the deposit without informing the government about it and without Piatco's even asking for it.

"Piatco did not ask that the money be released, yet (Gingoyon) displayed an inordinate eagerness to see the money of the republic released to Piatco," the OSG said.

Naia 3 has remained unopened because of the legal dispute between the government and Piatco.

Armand N. Nocum

Former Comelec exec charged

By Nelson F. Flores

THE OMBUDSMAN yesterday filed graft charges against former Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco before the Sandiganbayan for approving the Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS) project despite the shortage in government funds.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said Tancangco, who headed the commission's bidding committee, gave unwarranted benefits to Photokina Marketing Corp. Inc., selected to print the identification cards of the country's 36 million voters in 2000.

Marcelo said Tancangco approved the P6.2-billion ID project even if its cost was way beyond the P1.2 billion allocated for the project.

Tancangco earlier argued that she could not be held criminally liable for the Photokina contract since the project was never implemented and was in fact nullified by the Supreme Court. She said no government funds were lost and that her act caused no damage to anybody.

However, government prosecutors, in filing the graft charges against Tancangco, noted that she thumbed down a contract for the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results System for the same reason.

They added that Tancangco showed "manifest partiality" when she made "no objection" to the mandatory injunction issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court ordering the resumption of negotiations between the Comelec and Photokina.

Photokina sued Comelec for damages before the lower court after the majority of the commissioners refused to approve the deal that Tancangco entered with the ID printer. Photokina won in the lower court but lost its suit on appeal before the Supreme Court.

A bail of P30,000 was recommended by government prosecutors for Tancangco's temporary liberty.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Warning vs corruption

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo warned that the "prevalence of graft and corruption in the public sector poses serious threats to national recovery, survival and good governance." Marcelo made the warning Thursday as he announced the start of a five-day anticorruption training of government field investigators and prosecutors by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said the training program aims to build capacity and enhance the skills of investigators and prosecutors handling graft cases. Personnel from the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council particularly the Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit, Department of Justice, Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Department of National Defense and the Philippine National Police have been invited to attend the training course. ***Nelson F. Flores***

AdBoard stops STI

THE Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) has ordered STI College to stop releasing advertising materials claiming it has "the largest network of colleges in the country" after AMA Computer University filed a complaint, saying STI's claim was "deceiving." The AdBoard said the AMA Education System had the biggest number of colleges in the Philippines as compared to STI. AdBoard's Advertising Content Regulation Committee cited AMA's submission of a list of its 205 collegiate institutions. But Resty Bondoc of STI's Public Affairs office said the decision of the AdBoard is "still under appeal." ***Alcuin Papa***

Fake land titles

THE Laguna Lake Development Authority is reviewing at least a thousand titles and tax declaration on lands covered by the Laguna de Bay watershed area, saying many of these were fake titles. LLDA chief Edgardo Manda said the agency will challenge before the Land Registration Authority dubious claims over lands surrounding the Laguna de Bay to regulate development near the country's biggest lake. Manda admitted there were fixers in the LLDA who had caused the issuance of titles or tax declarations on lands that should have been government property. ***Blanche S. Rivera***

Abu Sayyaf plot

THE Abu Sayyaf group is out to exploit the political situation in the country and has sent two men to conduct bombing operations in the capital, a highly-placed intelligence officer said. "We believe they are here to take advantage of the confusion in Metro Manila," said the officer. "They were dispatched from Sulu three days ago. They take their orders from (Khadaffy) Janjalani," he said.

Khadaffy is the younger brother of slain Abu Sayyaf founder Abubakar Janjalani. The officer said the military has obtained the same information. ***Luigo A. del Puerto***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 25, 2005
12th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Gen 18:1-15
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-17

When Jesus entered Capernaum, an army captain approached him to ask his help, "Sir, my servant lies sick at home. He is paralyzed and suffers terribly." Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

The captain answered, "I am not worthy to have you under my roof. Just give an order and my boy will be healed. For I myself, a junior officer, give orders to my soldiers. And if I say to one: 'Go,' he goes, and if I say to another: 'Come,' he comes, and to my servant: 'Do this,' he does it."

When Jesus heard this he was astonished and said to those who were following him, "I tell you, I have not found such faith in Israel. I say to you, many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the kingdom of heaven; but the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown out into the darkness; there they will wail and grind their teeth."

Then Jesus said to the captain, "Go home now. As you believed, so let it be." And at that moment his servant was healed.

Jesus went to Peter's house and found Peter's mother-in-law in bed with fever. He took her by the hand and the fever left her; she got up and began to wait on him.

Towards evening they brought to Jesus many possessed by evil spirits, and with a word he drove out the spirits. He also healed all who were sick. In doing this he fulfilled what was said by the prophet Isaiah: He bore our infirmities and took on himself our diseases.

Commentary

Jesus heals the servant of a Roman centurion. The man's words have become part of our liturgy, immediately before we receive Eucharist: I am not worthy to have you under my roof. Just give an order and my boy will be healed—or liturgically as we pray: Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, only say the Word and my soul shall be healed. This man has faith based on experience of obedience and power in the military and he bows to Jesus' superior authority and power beyond his experience—over sickness and death. Do we, who repeat the prayer so often, live by this kind of faith, in obedience to the power of Jesus? Whose authority do we obey? By whose authority do we decide upon our moral choices? What do we do when our government or nation's authority and power are in opposition to our church's and our God's authority. O Lord, say the Word—the Word is Jesus, the Word made flesh, our God among us—heal us, strengthen us and save us from death.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US to boost Taiwan missile, air defense

WASHINGTON—The US Department of Defense said on Thursday it would supply Taiwan with key elements of a missile and air defense capability, a move aimed at defusing the threat from China.

Raytheon Co. won a US Air Force contract worth up to $752 million to supply the Early Warning Surveillance Radar by September 2009, the Pentagon said.

In a move bound to anger Beijing, which views Taiwan as a renegade province, the system will let Taiwan's air force detect and track long- and short-range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, enemy aircraft and surface ships with "no doubt" reliability, said Raytheon, based in Waltham, Massachusetts.

The system includes an ultra-high frequency "phased array" radar to be integrated with Taiwan-supplied beacons that identify aircraft as friends or foes as well as two missile warning centers, a defense department contract announcement said.

Raytheon began exploratory talks with Taiwan on the project in 1996, said Dan Martin, a vice president of the company's Integrated Defense Systems business unit.

Such a system represents an important step toward identifying any inbound threats, said James Mulvenon of the Center for Research and Analysis, a Washington-based group that consults for US intelligence agencies.

Eventually, it could be mated with Patriot Advanced Capability 3, or PAC-3, anti-missile batteries the United States has also offered to sell Taiwan.

"The surveillance radar is the first step in the chain of engagement," said Martin.

Mulvenon said Beijing would be particularly upset because missiles were at the forefront of its strategy for coercing Taiwan, a democratically governed island China has vowed to return to its fold by force if necessary.

"This raises the possibility that Taiwan will actually be able to defend itself against those missiles," Mulvenon said.

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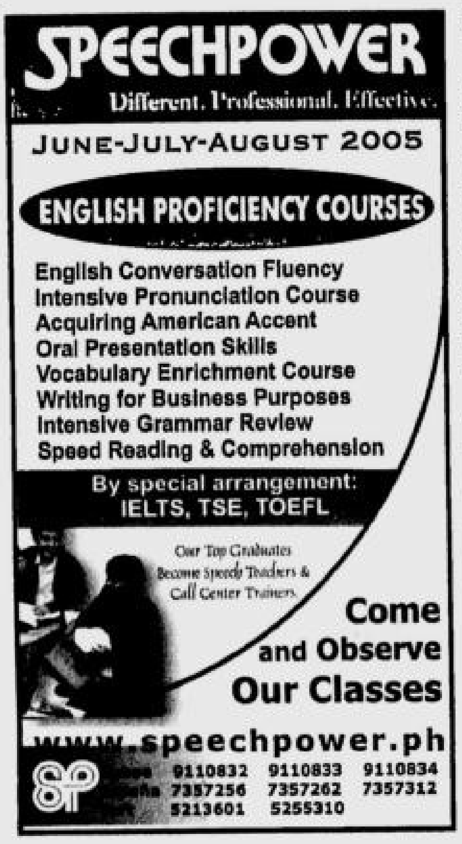
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IRANIAN women peer from a window as they watch Iranian regime veteran and presidential candidate Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani leaving a polling station after casting his vote in Tehran June 24. AFP

Moderate or hardliner? Tight runoff to decide Iran's course

TEHRAN—Iranians were voting Friday in a tight presidential runoff between relative moderate Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and hardliner Mahmood Ahmadinejad that will decide the future of reform and ties with the West.

"It is a very close race, but I think that I am slightly ahead," said Rafsanjani as he cast his vote, pledging to save the 26-year-old Islamic regime from plunging into "extremism."

Rafsanjani, a pragmatic conservative, is a regime veteran espousing closer ties with the West, economic liberalization and more reforms.

Ahmadinejad is a self-proclaimed "fundamentalist" seeking a return to the moral "purity" of the early days of the Islamic revolution.

A win by Ahmadinejad, currently the mayor of Tehran, would see anti-Western ultra-conservatives extend their stranglehold over every elected and unelected institution in Iran and could mount international alarm over the country's nuclear ambitions.

The outcome appears too close to call, although Ahmadinejad has been gaining momentum because of his austere image and concern for Iran's underclass who are dogged by unemployment, inflation and corruption.

"I'm voting for Ahmadinejad because he is one of us. America is our enemy and will remain our enemy," shouted Sayyed Mostafa, a 71-year-old retired municipal worker as he queued to vote in a working-class area of eastern Tehran.

Fatemeh, a 29-year-old civil servant clad in an all-black chador, said Ahmadinejad "is human and listens to people." Results are expected Saturday.

The unprecedented two-man runoff was forced after the June 17 election saw none of the seven contenders win a majority. In the first round, Rafsanjani won 21 percent of the vote against Ahmadinejad's 19.5 percent.

Rafsanjani and two beaten reformist candidates alleged that Ahmadinejad's shock score was helped by an orchestrated plot by powerful hardline regime elements such as the Guardians Council—an unelected political watchdog, the Basij militia and Revolutionary Guards.

Iran's outgoing President Mohammad Khatami, a reformist who has spent eight years battling the far-right, ordered his government to prevent fraud in the runoff.

But he warned irregularities "have amplified" and spoke of a "climate of terror and threat... to prevent people from choosing freely." Rafsanjani was also looking alarmed, saying: "I hope that this round will be healthier." Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose overwhelming powers could be threatened by a Rafsanjani victory, expressed confidence that the vote would be free of foul play and insisted that the vote had been "totally healthy." He drew chants of "God is Greatest!" as he voted.

Many critics of the regime have already dismissed the polls as fundamentally flawed, given that all candidates are screened by the Guardians Council in the first place.

True opponents of the theocracy and all women, for example, were barred from standing—and regardless of who is president the real power is in the hands of Khamenei and his loyalists in the Guardians Council, the courts, security forces and state media.

AFP

Korean draws 40 years in biggest human trafficking case in America

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The Korean owner of a sweat shop factory has been jailed for 40 years for forcing his workers into "modern-day slavery," the toughest-ever punishment imposed in America for human trafficking.

Lee Soo-kil, 52, who was convicted of holding more than 200 victims from China and Vietnam as forced laborers at his factory in American Samoa that produced garments for major US retailers, was sentenced Wednesday.

Lee and his "henchmen" used arrests, forced deportations and "brutal physical beatings" to keep workers under control, US justice officials said.

US District Judge Susan Mollway said the sentence was merited given the physical, psychological and financial harm the immigrants endured, and noted that Lee showed "greed, arrogance and contempt for American law."

US authorities, who are waging a tough crackdown on the scourge of human trafficking, hailed the sentence imposed on Lee, who had faced between 30 years and life behind bars.

"Human trafficking is a moral evil that is nothing less than modern-day slavery," Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said of the case his predecessor described as "modern-day slavery."

The "sentencing concludes the largest human trafficking case ever prosecuted by the Department of Justice," he said in a statement Thursday.

"The Department of Justice will continue to pursue and prosecute all those who attempt to profit from human suffering."

Department of Justice officials said the sentence was the toughest imposed in the United States for human trafficking in the case that involved the largest number of victims in any similar prosecution.

Lee, who owned the Daewoosa garment factory in Pago Pago, was convicted in February 2003 of 14 charges, including conspiracy, involuntary servitude, extortion and money laundering after a four-month trial.

According to the justice department, workers were recruited from China and state-owned labor export companies in Vietnam. Each worker paid a fee of between $5,000 and $8,000 to get a job at the factory.

All risked retaliation and punishment at home if deported back to their countries, prosecutors said, and "Lee and his henchmen preyed on this vulnerability and subjected the laborers to poor conditions and minimal pay."

During his trial, the court heard that Lee punished workers, aged between 20 and 45, for complaining about work conditions and threatened them with arrest, beatings and deportation if they did not follow orders.

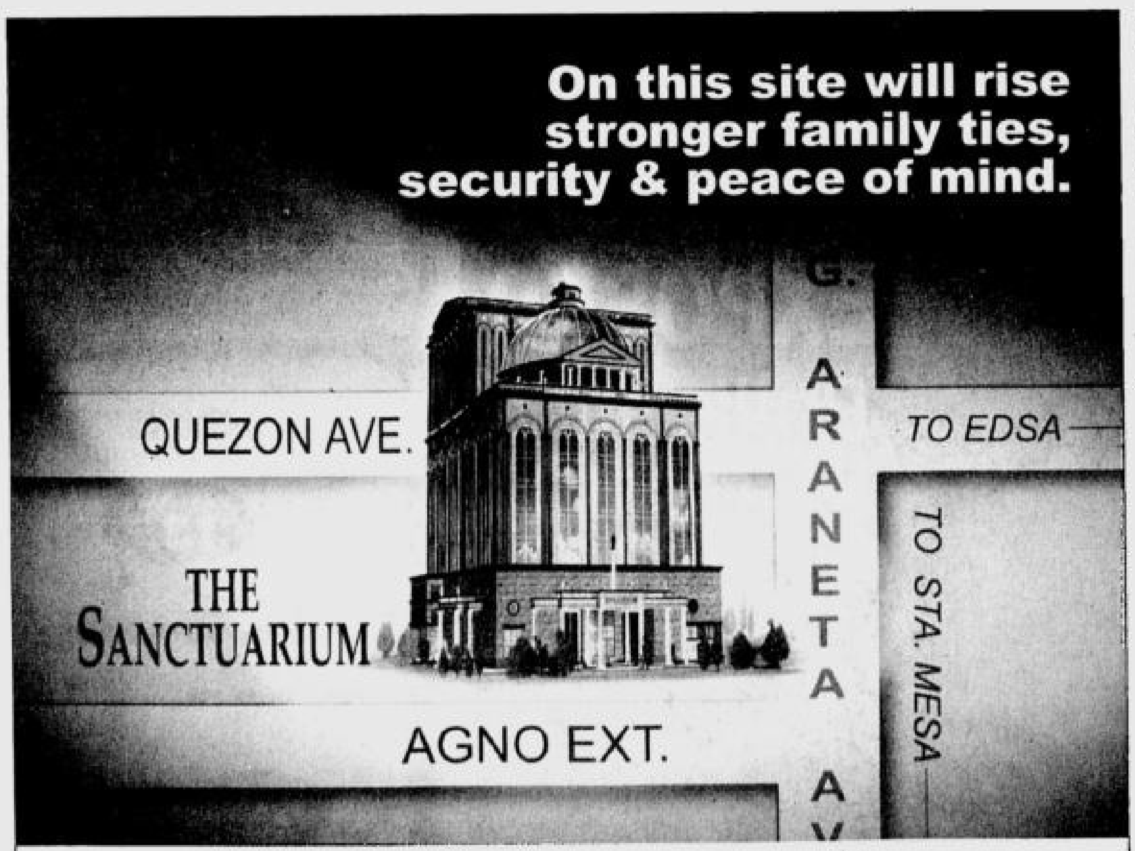
Workers became emaciated while in Lee's service, weighing an average of just 35 kilograms when they left his factory, the court heard.

The justice department said that workers started complaining about conditions in early 1999 and even tried to get food from local residents.

The retaliation started from the owner and his associates, and one woman was beaten so badly she lost an eye.

Lee told the court Wednesday that the sentence was "unfair," and his lawyers said they would appeal.

AFP



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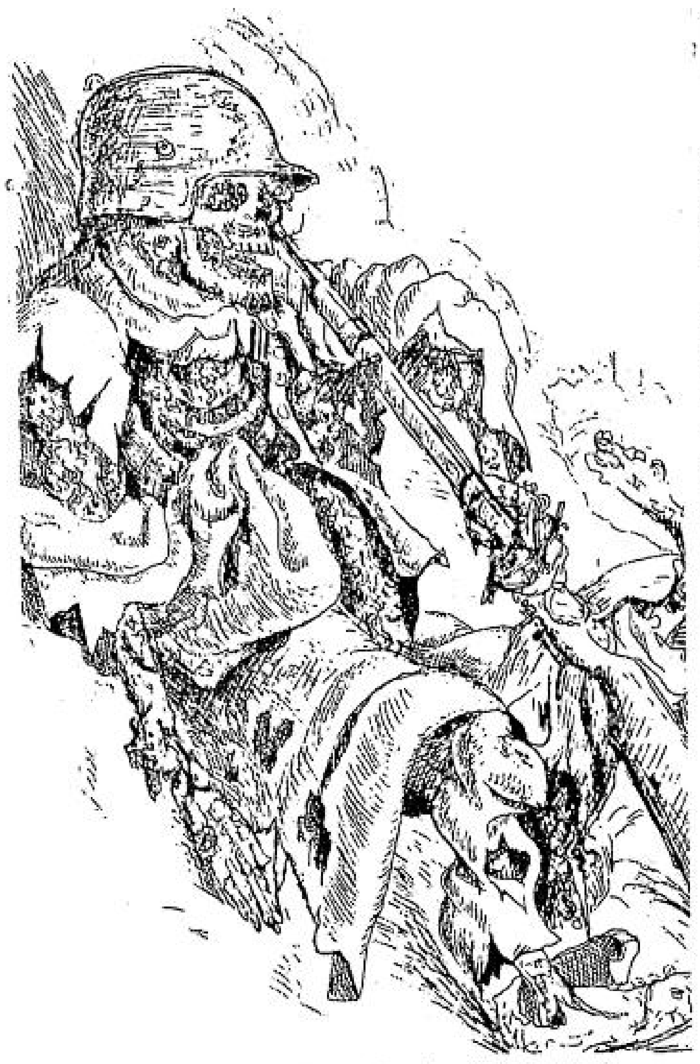
US not losing in Iraq–Rumsfeld



THIS SKETCH shows Otto Dix's etching from his "The War" portfolio, "Dead Sentry in Trench" from 1924, which is part of a collection depicting the calamity of modern war being presented at New York's Neue Galerie museum in a one-time show that opens June 24. AP

WASHINGTON—US troops are winning the battle against the stubborn insurgency in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld insisted Thursday, rejecting calls that the Pentagon create a timetable for scaling back US forces there.

"Any who say that we've lost this war, or that we're losing this war, are wrong. We are not," said Rumsfeld, who appeared with his top military commanders at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Let there be no doubt," Rumsfeld continued, "if the coalition were to leave before the Iraqi security forces are able to assume responsibility, we would one day again have to confront another Iraqi regime—perhaps even more dangerous than the last—in a region plunged into darkness rather than liberated and free."

Still, Gen. John Abizaid, who heads the US Central Command, conceded that "there's a lot of work to be done" to break the resolve of a resilient and determined insurgency.

"I believe there are more foreign fighters coming into Iraq than there were six months ago," Abizaid said.

The US defense officials made their comments as Iraq's Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari met at the White House with Vice President Dick Cheney, and one day before his talks with US President George W. Bush.

Responding to calls by some in the US Congress—including some from the president's own Republican Party—for a firm deadline for a US troop withdrawal from Iraq, Rumsfeld said such a move would only embolden the United States' enemies.

"It would throw a lifeline to terrorists, who in recent months have suffered significant losses and casualties, been denied havens, and suffered weakened popular support," he said.

Rumsfeld's remarks came with lethal insurgent attacks in Iraq at an all-time high, and as officials in Washington confront the continued challenges posed by global terrorism.

RUMSFELD REUTERS

"Terrorism of the magnitude the world is confronting today has no precedent in history. They are today's enemy," committee chair John Warner, a Republican, said.

Democrats at the hearing remained unconvinced by Pentagon assertions that the US military has the situation in Iraq under control.

Sen. Ted Kennedy, one of Congress' most vociferous Iraq war critics, slammed the military effort as "consistently grossly mismanaged," and called on Rumsfeld to resign.

"The American people, I believe, deserve leadership worthy of the sacrifices that our fighting forces have made, and they deserve the real facts," the Democratic senator said.

"I regret to say I don't believe that you have provided either."

Democratic Sen. Carl Levin said he rejects setting a timetable for a troop pullout but called nevertheless for a radical change in US Iraq policy.

"Staying the course is not only hollow-sounding rhetoric, it is an unacceptable policy," he said.

He said it would also be inadvisable for US troops to stay as long as the fledgling Iraqi government would like.

"An open-ended commitment to the Iraqis that we will be there ... lessens the chances that the Iraqis will make the political compromises necessary to defeat the jihadists and the insurgency and become a nation," Levin said.

That view was seconded by Republican Sen. Susan Collins, who said it could be necessary to send a message that "there would be consequences if progress is not made."

Recent polls also show declining US support for the war, with some 59 percent of Americans expressing disapproval at how Bush is handling the situation in Iraq, and 51 percent saying the United States should never have invaded the country.

Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman said declining public support is one of the greatest challenges facing the administration.

"I fear that American public opinion is tipping away from this effort," he said.

Republican Lindsey Graham, of the conservative, pro-military state of South Carolina, agreed.

"I am here to tell you sir, in the most patriotic state I could imagine, people are beginning to question," he said, of the eroding public support.

AFP

Koizumi accused of leading Japan down path of war

TOKYO—A former mayor of the Japanese city of Nagasaki, on which an atomic bomb was dropped 60 years ago, criticized Friday Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi for leading pacifist Japan down the path to war.

"Since Mr. Koizumi took office, Japan has turned from an absolute pacifist into a relatively pacifist country," said Hitoshi Motoshima.

Motoshima stirred up controversy in 1988 by saying former emperor Hirohito was responsible for Japan's involvement in World War II that ended with its surrender after US forces dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"The path leading to war has been opened. Japan has taken the first step," Motoshima, 84, told reporters, referring to Japan's dispatch of troops to Iraq, its first military deployment since 1945 to a country at war.

Koizumi, who took office in April 2001 and is a close ally of US President George W. Bush, has sent some 600 troops to Iraq on a noncombat, humanitarian mission despite strong opposition at home.

Motoshima made the remark about Hirohito, father of current Emperor Akihito, in December 1988 when the wartime emperor was in his deathbed.

Motoshima was shot and seriously injured by a right wing fanatic in 1990 but continued to serve as Nagasaki mayor until 1995.

His warning came at a time when Koizumi has been accused by China and South Korea of glossing over Japan's militaristic past with his visits to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo that honors Japanese war dead.

Motoshima said there would have been no atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima if Japan had not staged its wars of aggression.

Japanese people, he said, have tried to turn their backs on responsibility for atrocities committed last century by putting the blame on convicted war criminals hanged by the Allied Forces.

"I don't think Class-A criminals were the only people" who led Japan to war, Motoshima said.

"As a Japanese citizen, I want to apologize sincerely to the peoples of South Korea, North Korea, China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and those taken prisoners of war from Britain, Australia, the Netherlands and East Timor," he added.

The US bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, killed around 140,000 people—almost half of the city's population of the time—immediately, or in the months afterward from radiation injuries or horrific burns.

It was followed by the dropping of a second atomic bomb three days later in Nagasaki which left more than 70,000 people dead.

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Legislative compass

EDITORIAL

SEVERAL days after its opening, the multi-committee congressional inquiry into the alleged wiretapped conversation supposedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano seems headed nowhere. The hearing has been bogged down by debates about rules and protocols. It shows a chamber in limbo.

Regardless of whether the tapes are authentic or not, a legal matter that perhaps would never be formally settled since it's farfetched that anyone would come forward to say they are authentic, the materials are still valid as compass points with which to guide legislation. Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye may protest his innocence till kingdom come, but by preempting the release of the tapes allegedly by the opposition, which was reportedly out to destabilize the government, he endowed them with some measure of credibility and authenticity. He might have backtracked on his first claim that the woman's voice on the tapes was the President's, but he did not exactly deny their authenticity. He could not deny them because even the President has neither confirmed nor denied that the voice is hers and that the conversations took place. Nor have Garcillano and the Comelec denied the authenticity of the tapes.

It could be said that unless the tapes were authenticated, there would be no bases for the inquiry. This in fact is what has bogged down the hearing. But why conduct the inquiry in the first place if there's no final proof that the tapes are true? The answer, of course, is that by the mystique vested in them by Bunye, who released them, and by the political uproar they have caused, they must be treated with some measure of seriousness.

In the first place, Congress is not the place to authenticate the tapes. That is for a trial or a legal forum to determine. Congress is there not so much to test and establish the veracity of the tapes and their revelations but to come up with legislative remedies. The inquiry is conducted "in aid of legislation," a legal fiction to some, but it will do for the moment.

Therefore, the legal and formal question of authenticity should be set aside for the moment. In its place should be a Coleridgean willing suspension of disbelief, which would consider the tapes at their face value with the presumption that they may be true.

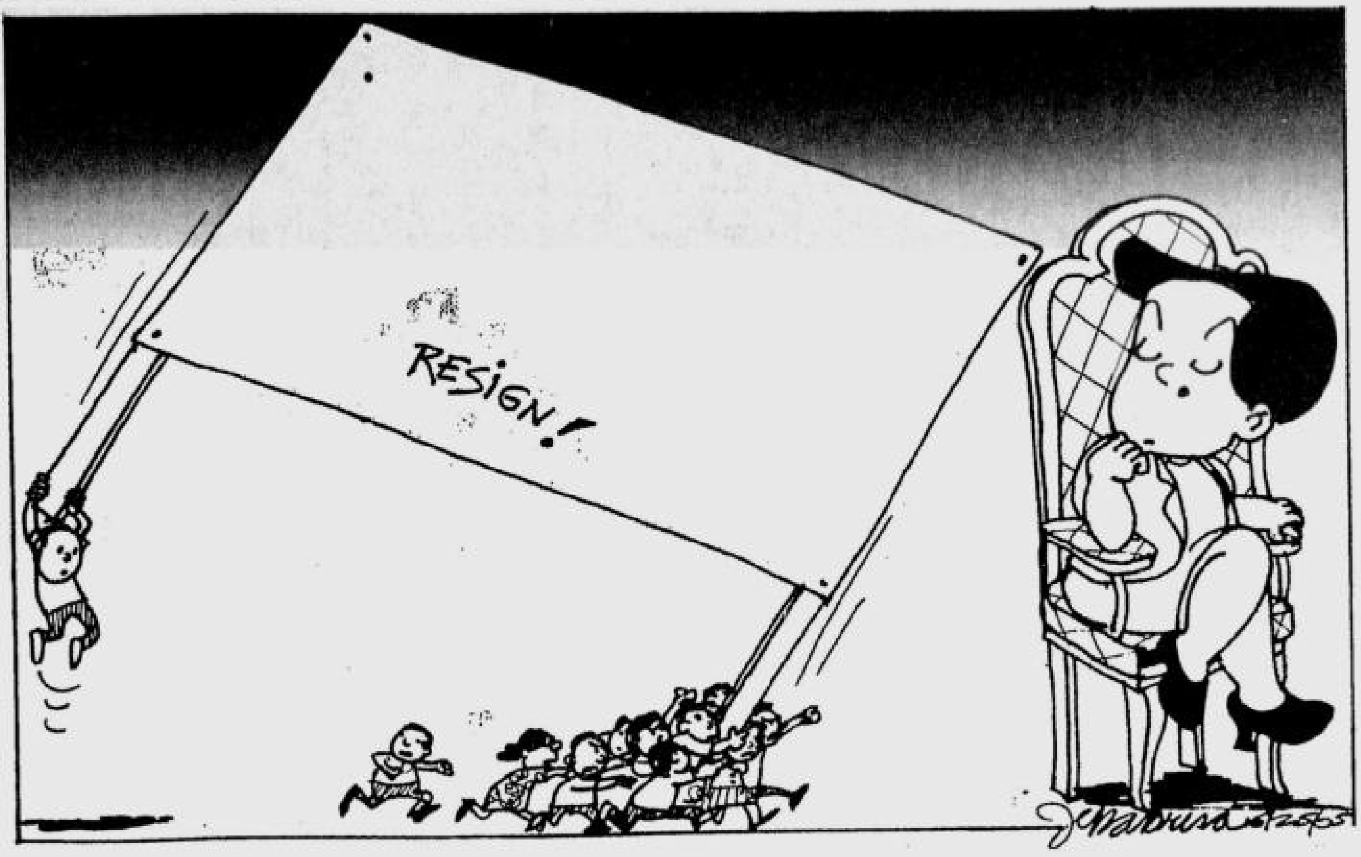
In short, the tapes should be heard by the lawmakers. Since the tapes have caused public unrest and there are questions about their legitimacy, they could be heard at least in private by the lawmakers. This would satisfy the minority's demand for the chamber to consider the tapes, and the majority's protest that the tapes could further fuel public turbulence. What the lawmakers should bear in mind is that they are hearing the tapes in order to find out what legislative remedies they could take.

The remedies are needed because regardless of whether the tapes are authentic or not, they contain disturbing disclosures that show how elections could be manipulated. The tapes talk about vote-shaving, bribery, the kidnapping of the family of an uncooperative election official, the complicity of the police and the military, and other sordid details.

But in a sense, the tapes don't disclose anything new. They show that our democracy remains hostage to the electoral verities of guns, goons and gold. They show the complicity of members of the political branches of government in making a mockery of our elections. Moreover, they show that even those appointed constitutionally to safeguard the elections can subvert the democracy they are sworn to uphold, like wolves in sheep's clothing aiming for the kill when no one is looking—or wiretapping.

The lawmakers may deny that they are accomplices in the rape and pillage of democracy, but at least they should accept responsibility for its deplorable state. Remorse perhaps would prod them to enact remedial legislation, such as a more determined push at computerizing the election and stricter screening of candidates for high Comelec posts.

Our lawmakers should listen to the tapes—privately if no legal way can be found to play them before the committee. Those tapes exist either as ugly truth or paltry fiction. If the former, the truths they unveil, however unseemly, must be faced squarely. If the latter, the fiction will make greater the urgency for us to uphold—and fight for—the truth and substance of our democracy.



Déjà vu?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RECENT commemoration of our Araw ng Kalayaan, which Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed on June 12, 1898, calls to mind the subsequent events that nullified the significance of that historic day. One recalls with a sense of betrayal the duplicity of the United States, which had come to the Philippines at that time in the guise of friendship. Its real intention was soon revealed with its pursuit of what President William McKinley called its "manifest destiny" as the newest member of the imperialist league.

On Aug. 13, the mock battle of Manila Bay saw the Spanish forces surrender to Admiral Dewey while General Aguinaldo and his soldiers, who could have attacked and taken the city by themselves, were deceived into playing a mere supporting and inactive role in the supposed hostilities. That day was later celebrated as Occupation Day during the American regime in this country and what is now Roxas Boulevard was named in honor of Dewey.

By the Treaty of Paris concluded on Dec. 10, 1898, Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States for the sum of $20 million payable on installment. The 7,100 islands of our archipelago were sold for that measly sum as if we were a household appliance bought with a credit card instead of cold cash. The purchase price was even less than the monthly payola now reportedly being distributed by the *jueteng* lords to their protectors. That is how the Wall Street Republicans regarded their little brown brothers over the angry protests of the Democratic Party.

The entry of the United States into the Philippines was not meekly accepted by the Filipinos notwithstanding our defeat in the Philippine-American War that the victor insisted was only an insurrection. Some of our leaders readily recognized the authority of the United States over us and were rewarded with choice appointments to the Philippine Commission, the Supreme Court and other high offices. Felipe Buencamino, one of the voluntary vassals, made the following shameful statement: "I am an American, and all the money in the Philippines, and the air, the light and the sun, I consider American." But self-respecting Filipinos rejected his incredible abasement.

The majority of our forbears resisted American rule as they had revolted against Spain. Although they had been vanquished, they retained the ideals for freedom imbued in them by Rizal and his other compatriots. For his refusal to cooperate with the new foreign government, Apolinario Mabini was deported to Guam. Gen. Artemio Ricarte went on voluntary exile to Japan. There were isolated resistance movements in Luzon and many provinces in the south. The most worrisome to the American administration was the Supreme Government of the Philippine Archipelago founded by Makario Sakay. He was lured into surrendering without punishment, was arrested while attending a dinner in his honor, and was eventually convicted as a brigand and hanged.

New laws were enacted to control the restless populace. The Sedition Law, the Flag Law, the Brigandage Law, and other measures were enforced to tame the public to submit to the foreign regime. But the people continued to resist, not only with armed force but with the equally effective weapon of the word. Plays, poems, and other native works mounting their defiance to the Americans were outlawed and burned. Among the valiant writers were Aurelio Tolentino, Juan Abad, Sergio Osmeña, Rafael Palma and Jaime de Veyra. Teodoro M. Kalaw and Martin Ocampo were held guilty of libel for their editorial entitled "Aves de Rapina" against a high American official. Their conviction was affirmed by the Philippine Supreme Court and later the US Supreme Court, but they were pardoned by Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison.

The acts of the American administrators during those early years antedated the present policies the United States is enforcing in Iraq, to much disapprobation from the rest of the world. George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld are further alienating their country from the international community with their highhandedness and arrogance. The exposé of the abuses being committed in Guantanamo against its Muslim prisoners has done little to airbrush the portrait of the Ugly American, which has in fact become uglier.

What is especially disconcerting to us is the way the current administration, in keeping with our copycat mentality, is imitating the bullying tactics of GMA's supposed friend in the White House. The NBI has raided a business establishment and confiscated propaganda against the President as subject to censorship and destruction. Those who have faulted Malacañang with the jueteng scandal and with falsifying the last presidential election are being threatened with prosecution for sedition. The Isafp has been conducting wiretaps without court permission. Even the naughty Garci horns being tooted by motorists are denounced as signals for rebellion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to have become so desperate that she has already released Big Brother upon the confused public to intimidate all those who would oppose her. Although we may not realize it yet, we may already be under martial law even without its formal declaration.

Different perspectives

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT is the same picture seen from vastly different perspectives.

"Undeclared martial law" is the description by some critics of the political situation, citing a police raid on a printing press responsible for printing posters depicting the President or the government in a bad light and the arrest of some students in the University Belt for "inciting to sedition" for distributing CDs of the Garcillano tapes. The threat of arrest—of those who air the tapes, or use "Hello, Garci" ringtones on their cell phones or their car horns—are also cited as ominous signs of a worsening trend.

That's one way of looking at it. But considering that no move has been made against the likes of Sen. Serge Osmeña, or Sen. Ping Lacson, or even against former party-list Rep. JV Bautista, all of whom are practically daring the justice secretary to arrest them, and no action has been taken against TV and radio stations that have actually aired part of those tapes, or on newspapers that have printed the transcripts, or on websites from which one can download those tapes and transcripts, and no charges have been filed against Alan Paguia or Samuel Ong, it would seem that the "undeclared martial law" is of pretty low-intensity indeed. Or it could be that the "situation" can be described not as martial law indicators but merely as the actions of your typical bullies (this time in government) with brown noses who maltreat those who are weaker than they.

The President and her allies have another point of view. They harp on "the work of economic saboteurs," "a well-funded conspiracy by the opposition to destabilize the government," and "the need for strict adherence to the rule of law" as they cite signs of capital flight (stock market downturns, "weakening" of the peso) in the wake of the controversy. They also link Paguia and Ong with Joseph Estrada and Fernando Poe Jr., respectively, point to the "different" versions of the conversations, cite the Anti-Wire Tapping Law, and question the "timing" of the opposition in bringing out their charges.

But the President and her subordinates can be said to have contributed to the uncertainty because of their own actions (Bunye's about-face) and inaction (Ms Arroyo's continuing refusal to clarify her role—at first, on the ground that wiretapping is illegal and she did not want to dignify an illegal activity, and then, on the ground that there is still too much speculation, which really does not make sense since her silence feeds the speculation). Moreover, at least one of those tapes, although not the voices as yet, has been authenticated by a competent, disinterested outsider, so the number of versions is immaterial. Then, too, it is hard to believe that the opposition sat on those tapes for almost a year for "timing" purposes, i.e., presumably to keep her off-balance so she cannot succeed in her reforms. If they were responsible for those tapes in the first place, they would have brought them out before the election prescription periods, and when FPJ was still alive.

Another (perhaps equally off-base) reading could be made from the same circumstances: the "conspiracy" could conceivably have been hatched by military elements who wanted to ensure their continued power by producing circumstances where Ms Arroyo would have to favor them in exchange for their support. The opposition played their expected role, like hyenas circling around a wounded prey, and going in for the kill.

Then there is the point of view of the political opposition: the present situation is an untenable one, a blow to the country's restored democracy, because the tapes "show" that the President has no legal mandate from the people since she only won because she cheated. The only way to resolve the problem is for her to resign, or be impeached, or be removed from office by an Edsa 3 (or 4, depending on how one counts). Unfortunately, their righteous indignation is suspect because they don't want Vice President Noli de Castro, whose popular mandate is pretty clear, to take over. What they want is either new elections (espoused by those who can't wait and think they can win elections now) or a junta (espoused by those who don't have a snowball's chance to win even as barangay captain). The odor of greed and self-interest is overpowering. The fact that some of those professing outrage are themselves tainted by corruption, by cheating, by martial law abuses, or by taking the law into their own hands further reduces their credibility.

Finally, there is another point of view, exemplified by the ad placed by North Cotabato officials led by Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, and similarly by the view of Renato de Villa, who doesn't seem to have any political ax to grind. For them, the present situation, made deliberately murky, can be clarified not by self-interested parties but by a thorough and serious investigation, with due process and the rule of law respected at all times, to be conducted by a truth commission, or an independent commission, formed and mandated in the proper manner, not by self-appointment.

I agree, totally. Then our legislators can do their jobs (instead of cavorting shamelessly in front of TV cameras), our executives can spend more time concentrating on the reforms the country needs instead of weakening our institutions, and the rest of us can figure out how best to help our country first before ourselves.

Let's not be pots calling the kettles black.

Opposition lost because it was divided—Angara

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S hard to understand Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez, who now says she regrets supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 2004 elections. Clavel claims to have her own tape and is decrying cheating in the last elections. Cebuanos, however, suspect this is more due to her frustration at being unable to get anywhere with the electoral protest of her husband, former Rep. Celestino Martinez, who ran against Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia in the gubernatorial race. GMA did not back any candidate in that three-cornered fight (the third candidate was former Vice Gov. John John Osmeña), as all three candidates were supporting her. If Clavel is now supporting the opposition's claim that GMA's people had cheated, then she is reversing herself badly. During the canvassing in Congress, she joined the entire Cebu bloc of lawmakers in protesting such allegations, declaring that "we Cebuanos do not know how to cheat." *Bumaligtad na siya. Naunsa na ba gid?*

* * *

The buzz now in Cebu is that Clavel is acting up due to the administration's inaction over the desire of a few last-term lawmakers to partition Cebu into three provinces. Talk is that Clavel, who is now serving her last term, wants to run either for governor of the new province or for representative again. But the partitioning of Cebu is being resisted vigorously by other representatives, notably Raul del Mar and Antonio Cuenco of Cebu City, and 6th district Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz. Besides, GMA, who is very frequently in Cebu, must sense that the Cebuanos themselves don't want it.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo Lacson held a press conference together with Susan Roces last Thursday to denounce the alleged cheating by GMA's group. He's another one who also did a 180-degree turn. Recall that soon after GMA was proclaimed by Congress, Lacson called on the people to put everything aside and unify behind her, saying she rightfully won the elections. He won plaudits for that act of statesmanship. Now, with all the hype about cheating, he has turned around, doubtless because he wants to be the unifying or rallying point of the opposition, after seeing it has no viable leader.

But the irrefutable fact is that, as opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, who has no love lost for Lacson, put it soon after the elections, the opposition lost not because GMA cheated but because it was bitterly divided.

* * *

In a recent presentation before a group of investors and executives in Singapore, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chief executive officer of the Ayala Group, stressed that one of the biggest advantages of the Philippines as well as its strengths, is its huge number of young people of working age. He noted that other countries, especially in the developed world, have rapidly aging populations, which explains why world population growth is heading for "an absolute decline"; whereas in developing countries, the opposite is true. In the case of the Philippines, said Zobel, the working-age group this year is a whopping 61.8 percent of the population, and this is projected to rise to close to 70 percent by 2025.

* * *

This imbalance, says Zobel, has caused a "demographic revolution" in the world. But if the Philippines can play its cards well, its young population could bring in a lot of revenues in the form of services to the world's aging population, such as in the field of care-giving and therapy, especially if combined with effective government policies. Unfortunately, he said, "The implications of this very unique demographic structure have not been grasped by Filipino policymakers. We have under-appreciated our strengths as a people and country." In fact, he predicts that if only our country and people could get their act together and capitalize on this asset of a huge youthful population, the Philippines could have the next economic boom in the next 10 to 15 years, after China and India.

* * *

I agree that we do possess such a big advantage over other countries with our huge bloc of youth of working age. In Japan and the Scandinavian countries, the population is aging so fast while the birth rate has been zero for some time now. Thus, their problem is that there's no one to care for the old people and to revitalize the labor force. Here, however, we have a different problem altogether. Due to budgetary constraints and the predilection of our legislators to sensational probes and exposés, not enough is being done to prepare our working-age population to meet the stiff global challenges and competition. We're letting that huge asset lie idle.

* * *

A recent news report cited Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri as lamenting that most of the over five million jobless Filipinos belong to the 25- to 34-year-old age bracket, when the performance of workers is said to be at its peak. Neri said opportunities for employment have grown at an average of 2.6 percent a year since 1998, reaching 31.6 million jobs in 2004. But it has not made a significant dent on the jobless statistics due to the growth in population and the drop in employment in the agriculture sector. Last year the unemployment rate reached 11.8 percent.

* * *

The good thing, said Neri, is that the low job generation in agriculture is being compensated by the increase in the services sector (e.g., health care and tourism), improvements of labor quality and productivity and in wages and salaries. But clearly these are not enough to take care of the 11.8 percent unemployed. True, thousands of Pinoys go overseas, but the job market abroad is dependent on the vagaries of international developments.

We need foreign investments badly here to set up those multinational factories that can absorb the many jobless youths. But in order to attract them, we have to attain political stability and peace—something so sorely lacking in our time. The prayer of citizens is that the administration and the opposition will join hands in an act of patriotism to push our country toward political stability and economic development.

Silver shoes

THE LITTLE girl's eyes were glued to the pair of silver shoes. She traced the outline with her fingers but she never dared to try them on. Instead, she carefully replaced them on the rack and headed for another. She noticed a black pair and again traced the outline, but her eyes kept darting back to the silver shoes. There was no mistaking that the girl wanted the first pair but she took the black shoes to the counter and paid for them.

YOUNG BLOOD

Magdalena P. Jaime

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

From the shoe shop, I went home, but the girl's pained expression wouldn't leave my mind. I seemed to have framed that expression, which was too vivid to ignore and too painful to forget. It was not indecision that made her buy the wrong pair, it was the cost. She had to compromise and buy the far cheaper shoes.

Not everyone has the luxury of choice from an array of options. There are those who have to take whatever their circumstances have to offer them, lest they lose everything. Call it a necessary compromise.

I am not disgusted with my job. In fact, I summon all of my energies to give justice to what I do. I strive to affix my signature to each task I am assigned to do. Maybe I do not give it my best, but the results are more than good, given the circumstances. At times, my distress over my failures rises so high that all my past achievements vanish into nothingness and only my failures stare me in the face. Compromise is not an option for me so that when I am compelled to accept a difficult option, I force myself to like it (at least) if not love it. It's not pretense. It is a well-intentioned response to the call of duty.

How it pains me to hear my co-workers say they enjoy what they do while I do not. God knows how much I have tried and how long I have waited for the time when I will be able to say the same words: I enjoy my job. If every teacher enjoys what she does, then, I must be the odd man out in the profession.

Am I just being too idealistic, putting everything in dark shadows when everything is just going fine? Maybe I am magnifying my professional inadequacies, making me feel like a total misfit in the profession. I wonder if someone feels the same way.

But I'm not about to close the door yet. Time still beckons saying, "You still have me. Stay a little while longer and you will soon see clearly."

I think so, too. Besides, staying in the profession longer could put my options in sharper relief. And if after everything I still don't find myself in a comfortable position, then I will turn to the other door and pray it will still be wide open. Just as the little girl, who's me, can always go back to the store to buy the silver shoes.

Magdalena P. Jaime, 24, is teaches at the University of Baguio Science High School in Baguio City.

Cheap solution to a deadly disease

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR most of his life, the late Sen. Rene Cayetano was the "picture of perfect health," going to the gym regularly and watching his diet. Then, in 1998, he was diagnosed with hepatitis-B and, as his daughter Sen. Pia Cayetano recalls, with the help of maintenance medicine, "he continued to live a normal and active life and was blessed with five good years despite being diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer."

But even a senator cannot be spared the ravages of the "hepa B" virus indefinitely. In 1992, Cayetano's health started to deteriorate. "The hepatitis virus had mutated and his regular medicine could not prevent the damage inflicted on his liver." He passed away on June 24, 2003.

Perhaps she has personal reasons for making mandatory basic immunization against hepatitis-B an urgent priority, but Sen. Pia Cayetano says there are sound public policy and public health concerns behind her sponsorship of SB 2012. Some 8 million Filipinos are estimated to be hepatitis-B carriers, and since the virus is transmitted mainly through blood, sex, shared needles and from an infected mother to her newborn during delivery, their families and loved ones are also at risk. "This disease is more infectious than AIDS because it is about 50 to 100 times easier to transmit," notes Cayetano in a recent sponsorship speech at the Senate.

"Hepatitis-B is a silent killer that stalks our country today. It has no recognizable signs or symptoms until severe damage has occurred. It is one of the major infectious diseases of humankind, and the most dreaded strain of hepatitis or the inflammation of the liver," she added.

About 78 percent of the world's chronic carriers of the hepatitis-B virus reside in Asia. It is most severe in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific region, where the Philippines belongs, which report the highest incidence of hepatitis-B in the world.

* * *

WHAT makes the death of her father, along with that of the estimated 500,000 to 700,000 people who die from complications of hepa-B a year, so galling is that hepatitis-B infection is preventable by cheap and simple technology: the administration of a vaccine.

Cayetano, in fact, began her speech by asking: "How many of us senators and our Senate employees have been immunized with the hepatitis-B vaccine?" She asked the question, she said, because "hepa-B" vaccination was not available when most adults today were infants or young children. "I myself chose to be immunized only two years ago after seeing with my own eyes what hepatitis does to the human body."

As with most other diseases, "prevention is key," says Cayetano. The only way to prevent the further spread of the disease, she says, is through universal infant immunization.

Up to 90 percent of pregnant women who are infected with hepa-B pass on the virus to their newborns at delivery. The World Health Organization estimates that about 40 percent of all chronic hepa-B infections begin at birth through mother-to-child transmission. These children who become infected are more likely to become carriers and to develop fatal complications as adults.

* * *

UNDER SB 2012, the reach of the national immunization program would be expanded to include giving a dose of hepa-B vaccine to all infants within 24 hours of birth. This "birth dose" shall be administered even if the mother is not a hepa-B carrier.

This initial dose will then be followed by two other doses by the infant's 6th and 14th week, perhaps as part of the basic "menu" of vaccines given during a child's first year.

Cayetano recalls that during the interpellation, many of the questions raised by her colleagues centered on funding. With the percentage of the national budget going to health shrinking, and with government itself hard put to raise revenues, would it be wise to require additional funding for a new immunization program? The numbers speak for themselves.

According to the Department of Health, the unit cost of one dose of HBV vaccine is only P15.30; three doses will cost around P45.90. On the other hand, a person already infected with hepa-B and cirrhosis or liver cancer will have to spend at least P450,000 for Interferon injections and daily medicines for six months, although the course of treatment runs for more than a year. "When all these fail," says Cayetano, "there's the option of a liver transplant," which can cost anywhere from P3 million in Taiwan to about P11 million in the United States.

* * *

THANKS to the HBV vaccine, liver cancer is now one of the very few cancers that are preventable. In 1992, the WHO recommended that the vaccine be integrated into the national immunization program of all countries. And most countries that adopted the WHO recommendation have experienced a drastic decline in the HBV carrier rate and in the number of persons with liver cancer. In fact, the Philippines is one of only five remaining countries in the world without universal immunization against HBV.

The Philippines has shown a puzzling slowness in responding to the problem of hepatitis-B infection. While the DOH integrated hepa-B vaccination into the national Expanded Immunization Program in 1991, targeting 40 percent of infants with a 10-percent annual increase until 100 percent is realized by 1996, the reality is that hepa-B immunization has been stalled at 40 percent.

Why is this so? The reasons range from lack of funding, promotion and public awareness, to perhaps common bureaucratic inertia. While it's not too late for us adults to be immunized against hepa-B, certainly, it's never too early to start immunizing all babies today.

Career shift

Sherill Flores

IT was just an ordinary Saturday. I went to SM Megamall to pay for my credit card and to eat ice cream to satisfy my craving. Malling has been my Saturday routine. But this Saturday was different since the mall was offering a lot of treats for lovers because it was the month of love. (But I'm not going to write about falling in love or Valentine's Day. I am writing about something else. About passion.)

As soon as I entered the mall, I saw the lobby already set for the great event. A large poster of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale was on display and the chairs and music stands were all set for the concert. I stood there in awe and, for a moment, I saw myself as one of the musicians, making the wonderful notes flow out as I played my violin.

I have always been fascinated with music. I can spend the whole day listening to the songs on the radio (may they be classical or pop). I love watching concerts and musical plays. When I was a child, I even pretended playing the piano using our television set (made of wood) and sang in front of the mirror pretending I was Annie. At a young age, I was not afraid to dream and yearn for anything.

Yes, I wanted to be a musician. I took violin lessons but stopped when my parents could no longer afford to support me. Besides they didn't want their daughter to be a musician. *Wala daw pera do'n.* It's nothing more than "*kahibangan*," my mom told me. I was convinced that it would be impossible to realize my dream.

After shifting courses several times, I finally finished college. I worked with a nongovernment organization before landing my present government job.

At one point in my life, I was asking myself if there's something I still wanted to accomplish. I felt something was missing. I considered taking up my master's so that I could aim for a higher position or taking up a caregiver's course so that I could work abroad. I didn't know what I could do to have a truly meaningful life. A meaningful life, happiness—that's all I wanted to have.

It was around this time that I noticed my violin case lying in a corner of my bedroom. It had been 13 years since I last picked up my violin. As I slowly opened the case, I saw my violin. I could almost hear it saying it was time for us to be together again. Then I realized what I really wanted to do in my life. Everything was clear and everything seemed possible. I wanted to follow my passion for music.

Now, I have shifted careers. I have been taking violin lessons, hoping someday to be part of that wonderful group of musicians called an orchestra. I may still be far from my dream but I know I'm on the way.

Sherill Flores, 27, works at the Pasig City General Hospital.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

Manila in 1859

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(As we lose more and more of the landmarks of Manila with nary a peep from her so-called leaders, her beginnings are now no more than shadows of a murky past contributing to our historical amnesia. The ties that bind us to our antecedents are tenuous at best. As familiar signposts of the past are bulldozed into oblivion, with historical street names replaced by names of self-seeking mediocre politicians, at least the written word may leave a trace of its storied yesteryears. Unlike other Southeast Asian countries that realized the potential of their colonial inner cities as tourist attractions and recognized the indispensable function of parks and open spaces, Manila demolished historic landmark buildings and neighborhoods and replaced them with literally a concrete jungle dominated by bland high rises that imprison its inhabitants to protect them from the islands of transient poor living in cardboard lean-tos and make-shift carts. It is a sorry excuse for a capital and presumably the premier city of the Philippines once called The Pearl of the Orient. Pity that its colonial masters believed in city gardens for the people but its native rulers hear nothing but the tinkling of cash registers.)

MANILA, despite not being particularly extensive in dimensions, was still the most populated of the archipelago. Situated on the western part of the island of Luzon between Laguna de Bay and the bay called de Manila, it was the great receptacle of the waters of Oceano. On the west, it was enclosed by the sierras of Mariveles and to the south by Pico de Loro. Sandwiched at the opening to the bay at the center between the two points was the island of Corregidor.

Into Manila flowed abundant torrents from rivers, principally the Pasig, that of la Pampanga, of Pasac and Orani and several in the province of Cavite. Manila was limited by the bay on the west, by the district of Morong and the great Laguna de Bay on the east. On the south, the towns of Las Piñas and Bacood separated her from the province of Cavite. The limits to the north were Bulacan, starting from the bridge of Tinajeros, following the river of Tala or Tanza that descended from the slopes of the mountains of San Mateo flowing onto the bay through the towns of Malabon or Tambobo and the barrio of Tonsuya.

On the right side of the riverbank about a foot and a half from its source, the two arms of Bamban and Taguig, shortly after being reunited, formed the river called San Mateo that was born in the mountains of the same name. After having traversed many ravines and forming a thousand tortuous brooks and rivulets of little known names, the San Mateo followed a constant direction to the southeast, irrigating the towns of San Mateo and Mariquina with the barrios of Santolan and Maybonga until it flowed into the Pasig.

The San Mateo, detached from the long cordillera of the Caraballo Range, had huge abutments that ran from the northeast to the southeast and ended in the province of Albay and Mt. Bulusan. In the abutments were formed the towns of San Mateo and Mariquina, Caloocan and Pasig, San Francisco and San Juan del Monte. Manila was the great plain that extended from the skirts of the San Mateo Mountains to the extensive bay. These abutments tapered down little by little until they were no more than smooth hills like Guadalupe and San Pedro Makati that reached the outskirts of the capital.

All these springs from the Cordilleras gave rise to the following rivers and arroyos:

The River Pasig, born in Laguna de Bay and running some three leagues, discharged its waters into the bay. It formed various branches, the most abundant being those of Pateros and Taguig and the Bamban that formed the one called Napindan. There were two other smaller arms, one in the town of Taytay and another called Tipas.

The branch called Bamban passed through many plains until the barrio of the same name belonging to the town of Pasig, with a pleasant vista in its banks, and joining with that of Pateros and Taguig flowed through the neighborhoods of both towns uniting with the Pasig River in the northeast. It passed through the picturesque hills of Guadalupe and the towns of San Pedro Makati with the barrios of San Pedrillo and San Felipe or Mandaluyong until it reached the town of Sta. Ana on its left bank while Mandaluyong continued on its right.

Reaching the fertile fields of the island of Pandacan, it continued westward towards the town of San Miguel until it reached the smaller isle of Convalencia situated at the center of the river. Directing itself from this point to the northeast, it reached Santa Cruz on its right banks and the Cuartel of the Fortin (little fort) on the left and flowed westward to the bay.

Throughout its path, the River Pasig presented the most varied landscapes, adorning the banks with the most exuberant and rich vegetation wherein was found hamlets of country houses.

There were two bridges over this river. One that was very modern and made of iron, called the Suspension Bridge, crossed in front of Manila from the Paseo de Isabel II to the town of Quiapo. The other, which was quite old and made of stone, led from the capital to the towns of Binondo, Tondo, Santa Cruz, Quiapo, Sampaloc and was the gateway to the northern part of the province.

(Data from "La Ilustracion Filipina," 1859).

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

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An appeal to GMA for country

"I HAVE no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (3 John 1.4)

We seek certainty, Madam President, on the many events that are unfolding in our country. The state of political anarchy is fast becoming a grave threat to the cause of justice and peace in our land.

The way you have turned a blind eye to the killings of many mass leaders in broad daylight has deeply disturbed us. We wonder at your manifest disregard of the desecration of civil liberties and democratic rights in the country. We waited for you to condemn the senseless killings of church people and to order the impartial and thorough investigations into the killings especially as they were allegedly done by the military. Instead, you worked for the adoption of draconian measures, such as the National ID System and the Anti-Terrorism Bill.

Is our people now under an undeclared state of martial law? Is the inclusion of churches and church organizations in the military's list of "enemies of the state" a chilling indication of a growing state fascism in the country?

Should we believe that *jueteng* continues to proliferate because its operation involves individuals who are close to you?

The controversy over your alleged recorded conversation with a certain "Gary" underlines anew the accusation that you have cheated your way to the presidency. We believe that this allegation speaks not only against your election but also of what our people think about the bankruptcy of the country's political system. How can you stop people from having doubts that you really used government resources in your campaign, rampantly manipulated and rigged the election results to secure your victory, and used terror tactics against your political rivals and progressive party-list groups?

Madam President, our people are scourged by the tyranny of violence and our country is drenched with the blood of the innocents. Plunder and corruption continue to impoverish our people. Personal and insatiable greed for political power thwarts democratic processes. The people are increasingly showing a militant posture over your administration. The mounting call for you to step down or to oust you from office is fast becoming a popular option.

Do not be mistaken about our intention for bringing these up to you. We have taken this sincere effort to learn the truth from you. The signs of the times are telling us that the situation could get worse should we fall into silence and do not assert that which is just. We ask you to be kind enough to warrant our endeavor with your attention and answer.

Madam President, we, in the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, will always remember you in our prayers, asking God to help you find courage in your heart to firmly stand up for what is just, noble and true.

Pro Deo et Patria (For God and Country).

—MOST REVEREND GODOFREDO J. DAVID,
Obispo Maximo,
Iglesia Filipina Independiente

Samuel Ong's charade exposed by soldier

THE CAT is out of the bag! The opposition's and lawyer Samuel Ong's charade is now over. TSgt. Vidal Doble himself has admitted that he was forced to read and spread black propaganda against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. This soldier's exposé should put an end to the opposition's ambitious but self-serving adventure.

This opposition caper has all the elements of a power grab attempt that lacks only one thing, the truth. That is why it is bound to fail.

No matter how the opposition denies it, the entire thing really appears to have been orchestrated from the very start. When the existence of the "tape" was publicly announced by Malacañang, some members of the opposition declared that their "source" would come out and admit the existence of the tape. It tainted what could have been an award winning script on dirty politics.

The "vigil" for Ong at the San Carlos seminary along Edsa was apparently an attempt to trigger a groundswell of public support, which never came because Ong and his handlers failed to substantiate their claims.

A senator's call for Ms Arroyo to resign was not just uncalled for but also baseless and might have been part of the grand scheme to fool the people. This senator must either apologize publicly, or better, he should now consider retiring because of old age.

—ERICA ESCALA,
erica_escala@yahoo.com

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Where have all our values gone?

1. HONESTY? It is no longer the best policy. Nowadays, It pays more to be clever than to be honest. Corruption, through bribery, is the name of the game.

2. Trustworthiness? Nobody can be trusted now. Even your spy can turn around and testify against you.

3. Heroism? Dubious characters can become heroes overnight by turning state witnesses to crimes they helped perpetrate.

4. Credibility? You cannot expect anymore consistency among our senators and congressmen. They have become unpredictable.

5. Humility? Only those who have nothing at all to show off remain humble.

6. Charity? Our people are now living on charity. Lotto, sweepstakes and *jueteng* have become the most charitable institutions.

7. Chastity? It is no longer a virtue.

8. Hospitality? This has become a misnomer among our hospitality girls.

9. Discipline? This is one value we have already lost. Ask yourself whether you still have it.

10. Stupidity? This has never been a virtue. But it is better than criminality.

Where have our values gone? Gone are the virtues of being just, respectable and honorable.

—PANFILO J. ROSAURO,
Misamis University,
Ozamiz City

DSWD documents or not?

THANK you for publishing our reaction to the news item titled "Barbers accused of diverting relief goods," written by Fe B. Zamora. (PDI, 3/11/05) This time, may I clarify the reply of Zamora that "the article was based on documents from the DSWD Field Office 13 in the Caraga Region."

Zamora stated it herself: she did not obtain the documents from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The documents she referred to in her reply were obtained from a G-watch employee, and not a DSWD employee. She did not talk to any of our staff at the Caraga field office, or to anyone here at the DSWD central office. Her response could be interpreted as if she talked with a DSWD person. As a fair and objective reporter, I expected her to get the side of the DSWD before writing the story.

This is standard practice that the INQUIRER is committed to uphold. The INQUIRER, as one of the nation's leading newspapers, should be more careful and more thorough in publishing its stories. I do not expect this to be published in the Letter's section, but I do hope the attention of Zamora will be called regarding her "fair reporting."

I continue to pray for you and the INQUIRER's commitment to truth and fairness.

—CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN,
secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development,
Batasan Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

IT is an accepted practice in journalism to use the word "said" when lifting quotes from a document. I would have used "told the INQUIRER" or "in an interview" if the quotes were taken from an interview. Let me reiterate that the article was based on documents from the DSWD Field Office 13 in the Caraga Region.

—FE ZAMORA,
PDI reporter

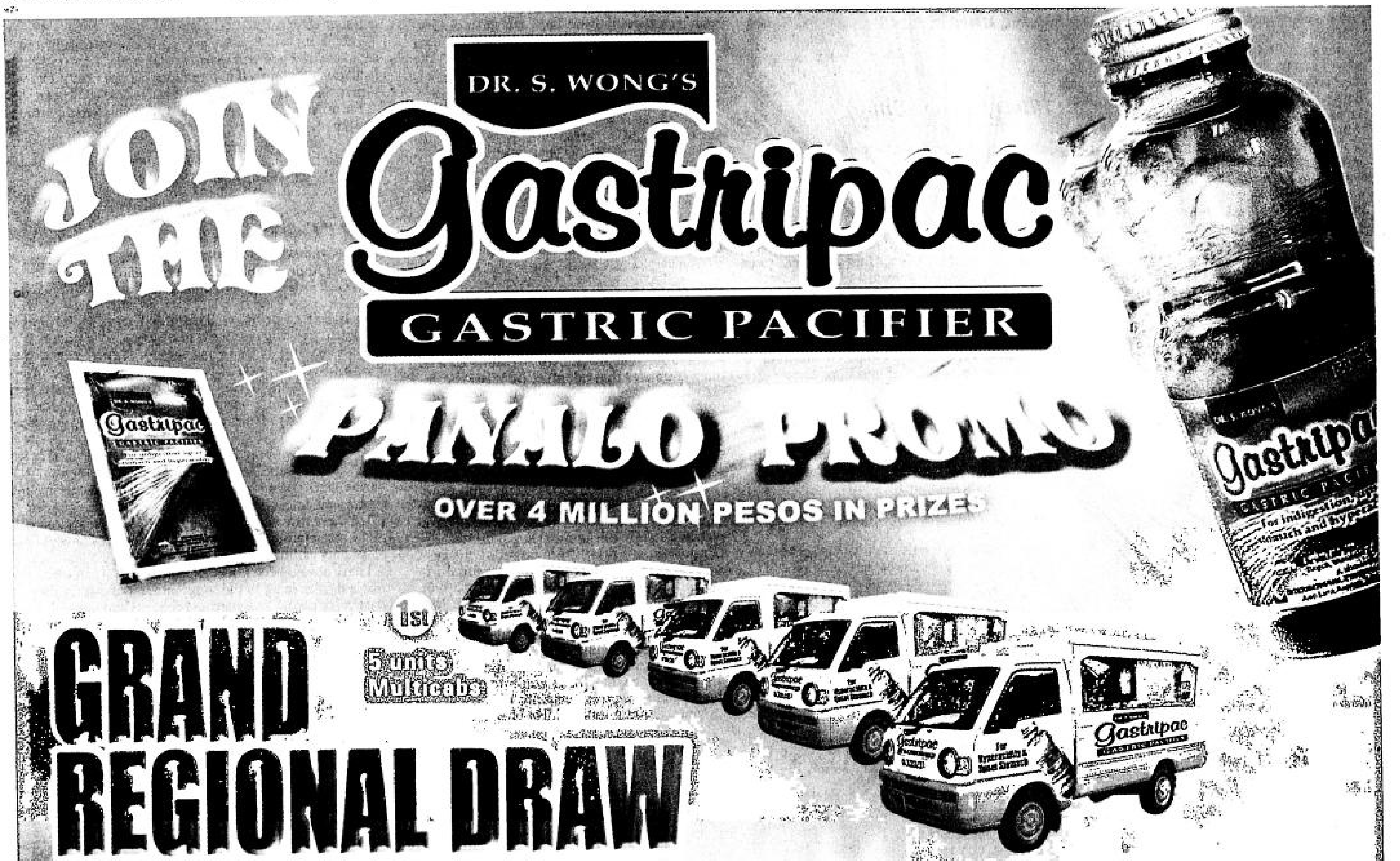
Let everybody do his homework

IN THE INQUIRER'S May 30 Talk of the Town section, this question was asked: "Why are Filipino kids not learning?" My answer is simple, based on the principle of teaching that I learned in college, which states that "If the pupil or student has not learned, the teacher has not taught."

It follows also that the school head has not supervised and administered, which is his or her main duty and responsibility. Also, the private and government sectors have not given their full support to the effort to provide good education for our Filipino kids, in violation of what the Unesco has been advocating in the last decade: "Education for all."

Under the sub-heading "What needs to be done?" Simple—let everybody involved in the education of Filipino children just do his homework. Work is the essence of love.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
municipal consultant,
Office of the Mayor,
Municipality of Pozorrubio,
Pangasinan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June 25, 2005
Cut-off for the grand draw entries will be on June 18, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.
1st 5 units Multicabs
2nd 5 units Tricycles
3rd 5 units Motorcycles
Consolation Prize: Portable appliances for 5 regions x 10 winners

INQBOX

Win this "Inquirer mug

Question of the Week

Do you think that President Gloria Arroyo still has the credibility to lead our nation? Why or why not?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! 0*

Key in: Inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

University of the Philippines Alumni Association

92nd GENERAL ALUMNI-FACULTY HOMECOMING AND REUNION

June 25, 2005

Messages

I SEND my warmest felicitations to the University of the Philippines Alumni Association as you hold the UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming and Reunion.

This occasion is an opportune time for you to cherish your colorful history, bask in your achievements as an organization, and reflect on the challenges that lie ahead. As you remember the good old days and renew your ties with friends and former mentors, may you keep in your hearts the spirit of altruism that has marked your relationship with your alma mater and with your country.

Join me in laying the foundation for clean and honest government and healing the deep social, and economic divisions in our society. I am certain that, united, we can see the realization of our national aspirations during our lifetime.

May you continue to be an esteemed ally of the government in engendering genuine growth and prosperity. Together, we can beat the odds!

I wish you all a most enjoyable gathering. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY warmest greetings to the members of the UP Alumni Association.

As we gather for our General Alumni-Faculty and Reunion, we reflect on the Filipino diaspora—certainly one of the most important issues facing our country and people today.

What was originally used to refer to an involuntary displacement of people has now come to take on a slightly different meaning. Some leave on exile for political reasons, but all too many leave to find better lives because of the poor economic conditions here in our country.

It is the conditions that force our countrymen—sometimes the best and the brightest—that we in the university strive to correct. The cultural, political, and economic well-being of the Philippines lies in the hands of our students, the future leaders of our country. It is responsibility in UP to develop leaders that will help this nation live up to its glorious potential.

I would like to thank all of you for your continuing generous support. With such an excellent partnership with our alumni, the University of the Philippines is certainly going to go on being the bastion of education in the Philippines, the home of the country's best minds.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat.

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
UP President

HOMECOMINGS and reunions are always festive occasions marked by merry making, reminiscences and thanksgiving. Apart from all these, UP alumni and faculty find time to discuss and resolve issues that beset both University and country.

In recognition of the important role that population size exerts on our lives, the homecoming themes of the past two years are population-related : " Population and the Quality of Life of the Filipino" (2003) and "Population and Education" (2004).

This year's theme "The Filipino Diaspora" addresses yet another related issue brought about by a fast-growing number of entrants into the labor force. It is said that a total of 8 million Filipinos work abroad and it is estimated that they remit around US$ 8 billion to relatives annually, making the Philippines the second largest migrant-sending country after Mexico and the third largest remittance-receiving country.

Underneath the dollar signs lurk some problems such as the social costs and the so-called brain drain phenomenon. The University and its alumni must help the country look for solutions to such problems.

As president of the UPAA, I also enjoin you, my fellow alumni, to continue supporting our Alma Mater's vision of a university for the 21st century. It was through our UP education that we are now successful players in our respective fields as evident in tonight's alumni awardees. It is time that we give back to our Alma Mater. Let us build a legacy for the future generations.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JAIME S. DE LOS SANTOS
UPAA President

WHEN you set foot on the grounds of your alma mater, the experience becomes a visual feast. You will be amazed by the drastic physical change in the campus. Because of the spirit that forever pervades and the landmarks that remained, the memories will be doubly enhanced. You may not be able to find your favorite nook or classroom anymore, but the presence of your classmates will relive the past.

You have lived meaningful, fruitful, and gainful lives. You have waved high the great traditions of the University of the Philippines, you have contributed a great deal to the social and political life of your country. We salute you.

We warmly welcome you to the alumni homecoming and reunion.

Enjoy!

GLADYS S.J. TIONGCO
First Vice President and Overall Chair
UPAA Homecoming and Reunion Steering Committee

THE UP CARILLON RESTORATION PROJECT COMMITTEE
From left - Mr. Bayani Aguirre, Mr. Teddy Rey, Prof. Josefina Agravante, Prof. Jun Sabug, Ms. Nini Jorge, UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio Cao, Ms. Ida Vargas, Dr. Romeo Gecolea, Regent Jaime de los Santos, U.P. President Emerlinda Roman, Ms. Solina Iglesias, Sec. Victor Ramos and Ms. Boots Mejia.

2005 U.P. ALUMNI AWARDEES

Most Distinguished Alumnus	Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., AA'55; BSJ'58; LLB'59
Most Distinguished Alumna	Prof. Solita Collas-Monsod, AB'59 cl
Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awardees	Engr. David M. Consunji, BSCE'46; LLD'93 Dr. Thelma F. Navarrete-Clemente, AA'40; MD'45

Outstanding Professional Awards

Agriculture	Dr. Azucena L. Carpena, BSA'60 cl
Arts & Letters (Art Criticism)	Dr. Paulino "Paul" B. Zafaralla, BFA'63; MA'73; PhD'90
Business Administration	Ms. Mercedes Tan-Gotianun, BSPhar'50 mcl
Engineering	Engr. Claudio B. Altura, BSCE57
Fine Arts (Art History & Criticism)	Prof. Ruben David P. Defeo, AB'75
Fisheries	Dr. Liberato V. Laureta, BSFish'73; MSFish'81
Geology	Mr. Eduardo V. Mañalac, BSGeo'67
Home Economics (Hotel & Restaurant)	Ms. Pacita U. Juan, BSHRA76
Medicine	Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua, AA'51; MD'56
Natural Sciences (Environmental Science)	Dr. Teofilo A. Abrojano, Jr., BSGeo'77
Natural Science (Biological Sciences)	Dr. Benito O. De Lumen, BSST'62
Nursing	Dr. Fely Marilyn Elegado-Lorenzo, BSN'73; MPH'81
Veterinary Medicine	Dr. Lydia Calceña-Mangahas, DVM'68
Community Service Award-National	Dr. Adolfo B. Bellosillo, AA'55; MD'63
Community Service Award-Luzon	Dr. Abudio D.P. Palencia, Sr., AA'51; MD'56
UPAA Service Award	Atty. Eduardo F. Hernandez, AA'49; ROTC51; LLB'53
Special Recognition Award	Engr. Henry Lim Bon Liong, BSME'72
Special Recognition Award (Posthumous)	Dr. Raymundo S. Punongbayan, BSGeo'60
Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award	U.P. Club of America
Outstanding Graduate Awards	Mr. Bonping Stewart A. Lim II, BSBioChem'05 scl Miss Noelle Andrea V. Fable, BSMBB'05 scl

UPAA HOMECOMING & REUNION STEERING COMMITTEE

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Mr. Leon M. Arceo

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Ms. Evelina G. Escudero

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Golden Jubilarians (Class 1955)
Ruby Jubilarians (Class 1965)
Silver Jubilarians (Class 1980)
UPAA Secretariat

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Chairs: Dr. Arnon L. Rivera
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Chan. Felix P. Librero, (U.P. Open University)
Chan. Ricardo M. de Ungria, (U.P. Mindanao)
Chan. Priscilla S. Macansantos, (U.P. Baguio)

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Co-Chair: Mr. John Y. Gaisano, Jr.
Members: UPAA Board of Directors
U.P. Cadets
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Food/Catering:
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Co-Chair: Ms. Rebecca R. Rellosa

Raffle:
Chair: Atty. Renato B. Corpuz
Co-Chair: Ms. Fernandita C. [illegible]

Ways & Means:
Chair: Regent Jaime S. delos Santos
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Mr. John Y. Gaisano, Jr.

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Dr. Erlinda S. Echanis

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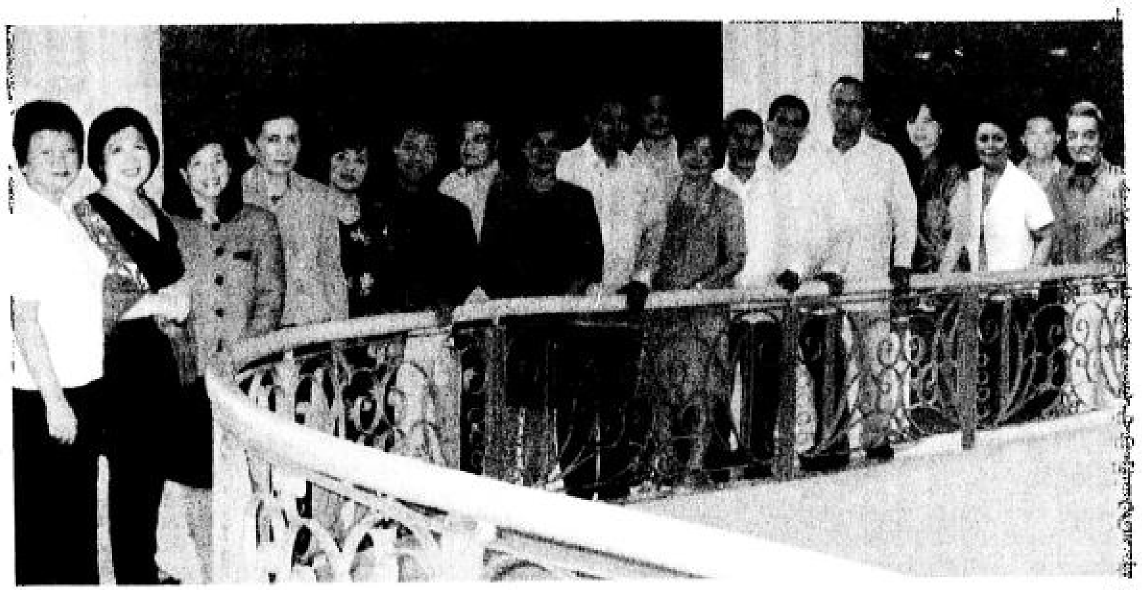

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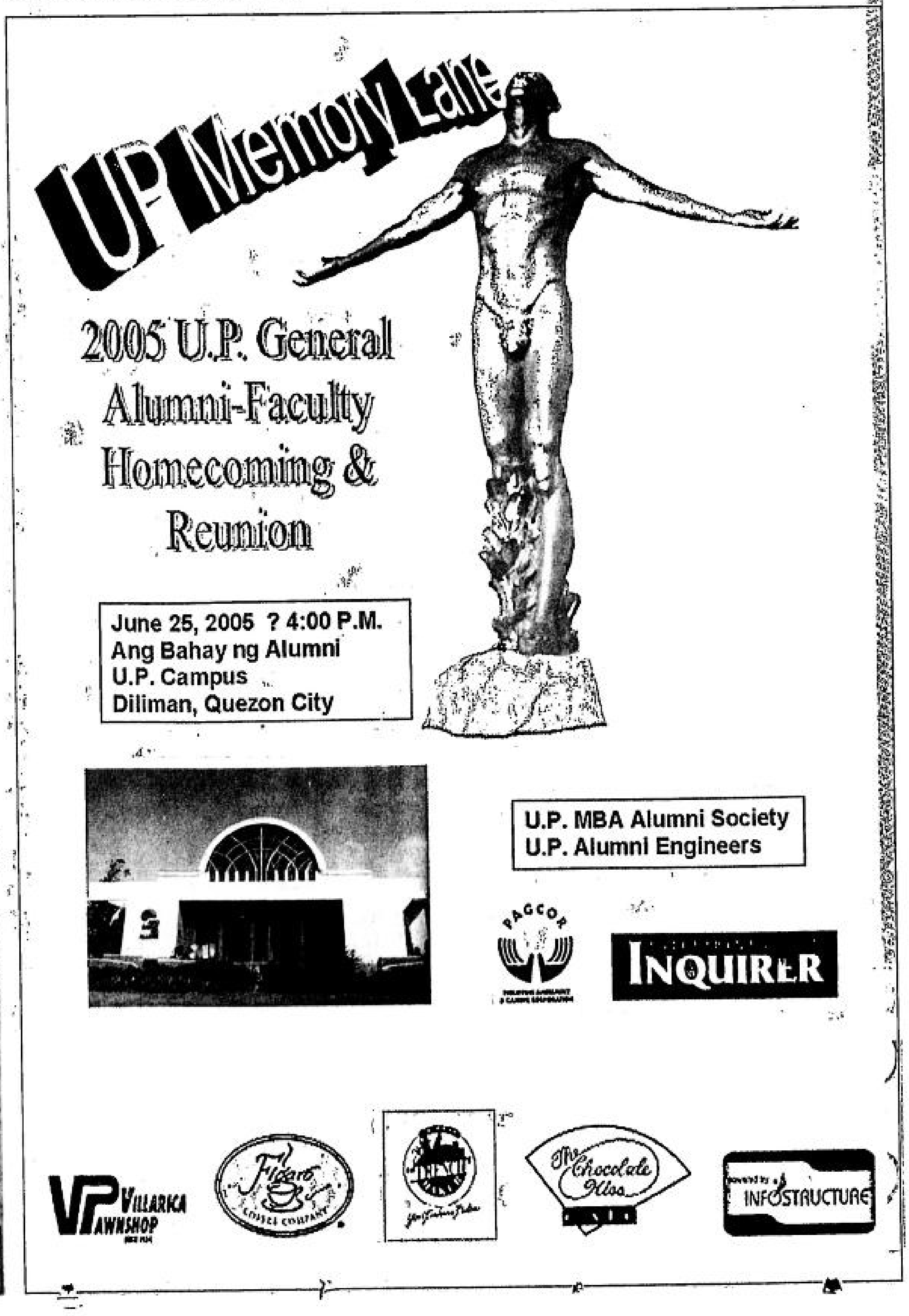
From left - (standing) - Mr. Stewart Lim II (Most Outstanding Male Graduate), Mr. Stauro Punongbayan (for Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan), Engr. and Mrs. Claudio Altura, Ms. Noelle Andrea Fable (Most Outstanding Female Graduate), Ms. Olivia Aliga, Engr. Henry Lim Bon Liong, Dr. Abundio Palencia, Jr., Dr. Augusto Litonjua, Atty. Eduardo Hernandez, Mr. Eduardo Manalac, Dr. Paul Zafaralla
From left - (seated) - Dr. Lydia Mangahas, Ms. Pacita Juan, Ms. Mercedes Gotianun, Dr. Thelma Clemente (Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award), Ms. Solita Monsod (Most Distinguished Alumna), U.P. President Emerlinda Roman, Chief Justice Hilario Davide (Most Distinguished Alumnus), UPAA President Jaime de los Santos and Dr. Fely Lorenzo.



2005 U.P. General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming & Reunion

June 25, 2005 ? 4:00 P.M.
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Pro-GMA Cebu execs tag solon 'persona non grata'

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Pro administration Cebuano leaders yesterday strongly denounced allegations of electoral fraud in the province and declared their erstwhile ally, Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez of Cebu's fourth district, *persona non grata*.

MARTINEZ

A manifesto signed by Cebu's governor and at least 60 other local officials branded the allegations raised by Asas-Martinez during the hearing on the wiretapping controversy as "baseless, unfounded, reckless and irresponsible."

Martinez, during the congressional inquiry on Tuesday, claimed that there was rigging and cheating during the presidential elections in Cebu province.

Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia yesterday presided over a meeting where the manifesto was prepared and later signed by her and by 28 town mayors, 26 vice mayors, 3 provincial board members, and 9 barangay captains.

She said the manifesto would be published in national and local newspapers next week. She said she would also personally hand carry a copy of the manifesto to President Macapagal-Arroyo when the President meets with Cebuano leaders on Monday in Malacañang.

"She [Congresswoman Martinez] publicly accused us before the entire nation of cheating. This is our answer to congresswoman Clavel Asas-Martinez and to the entire nation. In Cebu, President Arroyo won fair and square. Cebu knows how to choose its president. Cebuanos are no cheaters," the governor stressed.

"I don't care," was Asas-Martinez' reaction when reached for comment yesterday.

She said she would not be bothered even if she was declared *persona non grata* 10 times by the signatories of the manifesto because they were her political enemies anyway.

But she also said that those who "cheated" in the last elections, and not her, should be declared *persona non grata*.

In the two-page manifesto, the local officials declared that the May 11, 2004 elections in Cebu were generally "clean, honest and orderly."

"Against these well-documented facts, Congresswoman Clavel Asas-Martinez can only make bare and generalized accusations, unsupported by any evidence and all made under the cloak of parliamentary immunity," the manifesto stated.

"This is a clear abuse of parliamentary privilege and we strongly denounce it, compounded as it is by the clear, selfish, personal and political motive to put a cloud of doubt over the elections in Cebu, where her husband lost in his bid for governor," it added.

Martinez's husband, former fourth district Rep. Celestino Martinez, lost to Garcia in the last elections. Martinez is contesting the result, claiming he was cheated.

The leaders here also urged the President and the leadership of the administration party to "take a strong and decisive action" against Asas-Martinez for questioning the leadership and legitimacy of Arroyo's election.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, who also was in the Garcia-led meeting yesterday, also denounced the allegation saying the late Fernando Poe Jr. could not win over Arroyo in Cebu.

"Maybe there might be some minor anomalies (in the last elections) but the implication of what she said was there was cheating. I won't allow this kind of comment without a reaction," he said. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

LEONCIO BALBIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

REBEL ARMS
Brig. Gen. Melchor Dilodilo, commanding general of the 503rd Infantry Brigade in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, inspects one of the weapons that the Army says it seized from a raid on a New People's Army camp in Tubo, Abra.

ROUNDUP

Anthrax downs 3 men

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Three men were hospitalized after they ate carabao meat believed infected by anthrax in Barangay Dadda here. Nestor Ferrer, barangay chair of Dadda, said the victims, identified as Policronio Daliuag, Danilo Pattugalan and Pablo Arago, butchered a sick carabao in the village and ate its meat. A few days later, the three men noticed that some parts of their bodies were swollen. Government veterinarians have started vaccination of carabaos in the province following reports that at least five carabaos were reported infected by anthrax in Peñablanca town.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 village guards slain

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan—Two village watchmen in this town were killed in separate incidents on June 16. Police said Fidel Gutierrez, 47, of Barangay Del Rosario, was shot and killed by two men aboard a motorcycle at 9 p.m. while he was walking in the village. In another incident, Eugenio Baltazar, 48, of Barangay Sapang Balas, died after he was stabbed by two men who barged into his house at about 7 p.m. Baltazar's wife, Grace, was wounded in the attack. Police identified the suspects in Baltazar's slaying as Pedro Golondrina and Michael Aguilar, both of Sapang Balas.

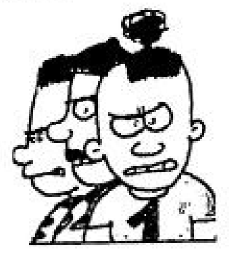
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wanted man surrenders

MAUBAN, Quezon—The man on top of the wanted list of the police here surrendered on Wednesday, a police report said. Edwin Escudero Romero from Barangay Daungan here, is facing a murder charge and has a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Virgilio Alfajora of the Regional Trial Court Branch 64. A report said the surrender was made possible through the intercession of Supt. Faustino Euste, Gumaca police station chief.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 brothers nabbed



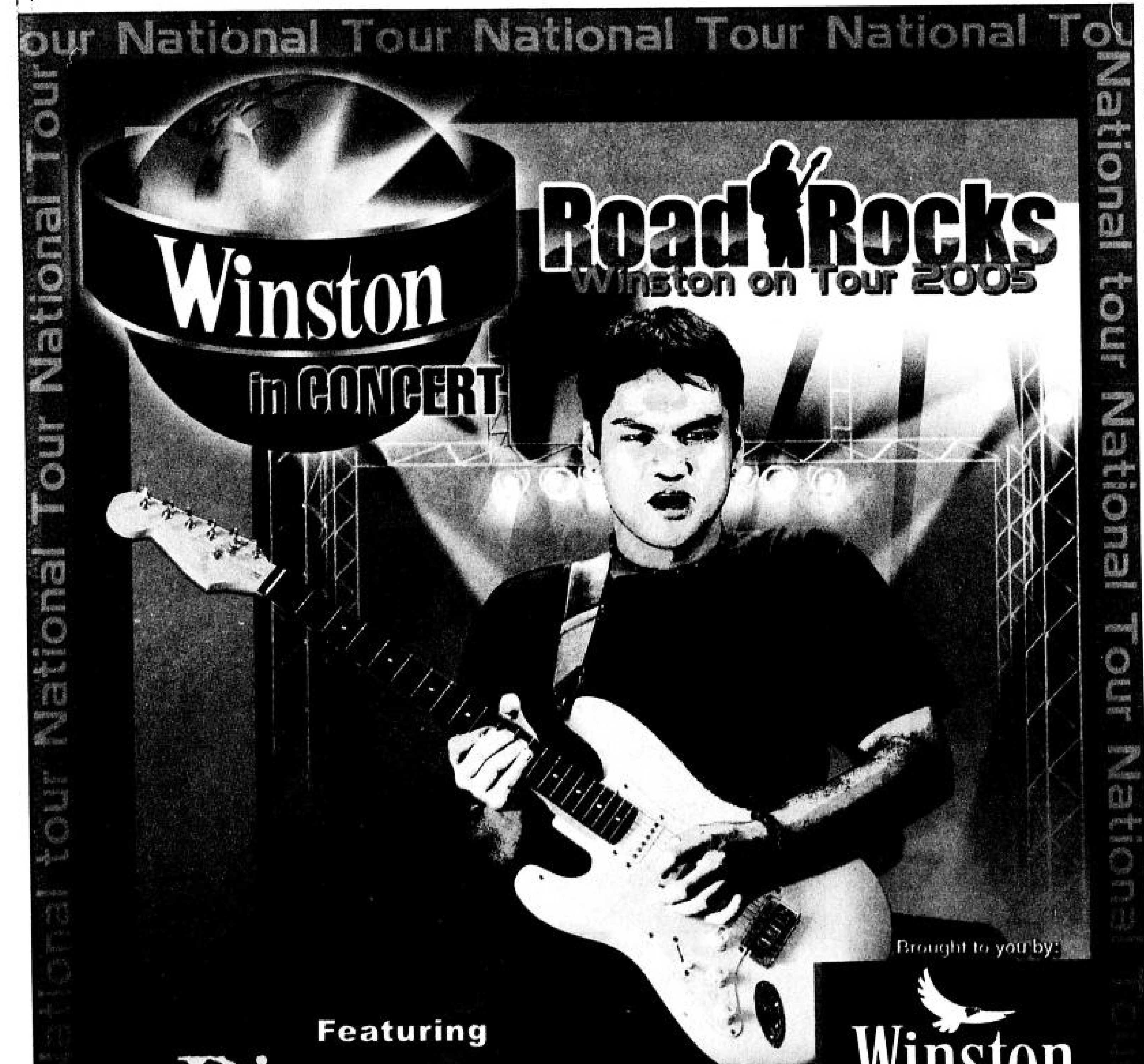
CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police on Friday swooped down on a house in Dasmariñas, Cavite and arrested three family members listed as the top three most wanted criminals in the municipality. Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police director, identified the suspects as brothers Gilbert, 21, Eduardo, 31, and Leo, 24—all surnamed Domingo. Versoza said the three were listed, respectively, as the first, second and third most wanted persons in Dasmariñas after being involved in a string of murder cases two years ago. Versoza said the three were arrested based on warrants of arrest issued by Judge Norberto Quisumbing of the Imus regional trial court.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Spain, Chile execs honored

LEGAZPI CITY—The Aquinas University of Legazpi City on Saturday conferred honorary degrees on Gerardo Rocha, founding and current president of the Universidad Sto. Tomas of Santiago, Chile, and Dr. Javier Galvan, director of the Instituto Cervantes, the Spanish Cultural Center in Manila. Rocha was conferred the Doctor of Pedagogy while Galvan was given a Doctor of Humanities degree. A music composer and book author, Rocha is also the founder of the International Council of Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Galvan has authored over 20 publications, majority of which are related to the cultural manifestations of Spanish origin in the Asia-Pacific region. The conferment of honorary degrees to the two foreign dignitaries was preceded by Mass led by Bishop Nestor Cariño of the Diocese of Legazpi at 3 p.m. at the AQ Dome of AUL in Barangay Rawis here.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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CHR in Bicol says arrested NPA leader tortured

LEGAZPI CITY—The alleged New People's Army top leader arrested last week was tortured by his interrogators, the Commission on Human Rights-Bicol said after its investigators personally checked on the detainee on Tuesday.

Norilyn Garcia, CHR-Bicol chief investigator, and Rey Matosiaos, CHR investigator, claimed that Elmer Osila, the alleged deputy secretary of Guerrilla Front Committee 79, also known as Komite Probinsiya "Epson" operating in Sorsogon province, bore several torture marks. They said these were tell-tale signs that Osila underwent torture during his tactical interrogation by the military.

"He had a large green-and-violet-colored hematoma on the right portion of his back; there were also visible depressions in the spaces between the fingers of his right hand, and there were black spots in the back of his left hand, due to electrocution," Garcia said.

Garcia and Matosiaos visited Osila in his detention cell at the Sorsogon Provincial Jail last June 21, after reports surfaced that Osila was subjected to torture during his interrogation with his captors at the 65th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Tula-Tula, Ligao City.

A military official, however, denied the allegations.

"The Philippine Army does not practice torture. We are advocates of human rights," said Major Jose Broso, commander of the military's 2nd Civil Relations Division.

"I strongly doubt that they could have done it. Lt. Col. Edmundo Malabanjot, the commanding officer of the 65th IB, knows the repercussions of subjecting detainees to torture," he said.

Osila's allegations of physical torture were just a rehash of the usual practice of insurgents to cry torture to get the sympathy of the people, he added.

M/Sgt. Romeo Ilustre of the military's civil relations unit in Camp Simeon Ola here also denied the reports of torture, saying the allegations were baseless.

According to Ilustre, Osila was treated well by the 65th IB and was submitted to a medical check-up before he was turned over to Sorsogon BJMP at noon of June 20.

"The medical certificate will verify that Osila's claims are entirely false," Ilustre said.

Broso said the Army has already shunned the practice of torture used during martial law. *Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CRASH RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
A Philippine Air Force Huey helicopter lies on its side after crashing near an airstrip in Carmen in Rosales, Pangasinan Thursday. The seven soldiers on board, including three members of the Presidential Security Group, were injured.

Coco execs see bright future for farmers as prices of copra rise

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Philippine Coconut Authority in Eastern Visayas has said this is a "good time" for the region's more than 1.4 million coconut farmers as the price of copra continues to be high.

Edilberto Nierva, CPA regional manager, said that the price of copra has been high in the region for the past 18 months now due to the strong demand for the commodity, both in the local and international markets.

"This is, of course, good news for all our coconut farmers as there were times that the price of copra went down to P5 (a kilo)," Nierva told the INQUIRER.

About two years ago, the region's coconut farmers suffered serious economic difficulty when the price of copra in the region went down due to low demand in the world market.

Falling prices

Nierva said that for more than a year now, the mill gate price of copra had been ranging from P19 to P21 a kilo while the farm gate price is from P15 to P18 a kilo.

The region annually earns $17 million for copra exported to Japan, the United States and some parts of Europe, identified as the country's traditional markets, and to its new markets like China, South Korea and Vietnam.

Nierva said that for the first quarter of this year, the region registered an increase of about 1.8 percent in its copra production compared to production in the same period last year.

He said the copra yield in the region for the first three months of this year has reached more than 116,000 metric tons, while only about 114,000 metric tons were produced during the first quarter of 2004.

Helpful weather

Nierva added that the absence of strong typhoons affecting the region was another big factor why the copra yield was high.

"We just hope that good weather will continue in the region ... that no weather disturbance will hit us. Otherwise, this will have an impact in our coconut industry," he said.

Eastern Visayas, which ranks third among the country's coconut-producing regions, has an annual copra production of more than 450,000 metric tons.

Currently, Eastern Visayas has more than 640,000 hectares of land devoted to coconut planting.

More lands

But with the identification of about 48,593 hectares more land to be planted to coconut, the region's copra production might just increase by at least 50,000 metric tons, Nierva said.

Wiretap inspires drive vs dengue

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"Hello, Dengue?"

Taking a cue from the alleged wiretapped conversation between President Macapagal and election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the local health office here used "Hello, Dengue?" in its motorcade on Thursday.

Around 300 vehicles joined the anti-dengue campaign caravan which had loud speakers playing "Hello, Dengue?" to attract people's attention.

"We are doing a wake up call. The 'Hello, Garci' theme is popular that it can easily call the attention of residents," said City Health Officer Rodel Agbulos.

Aside from the 300-vehicle motorcade, around 1,000 people, representing the local government unit, business and private sectors, also marched the city streets.

Agbulos said the number of dengue cases here continues to rise. He said five persons have already died while 533 have been confined in government and private hospitals because of dengue. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ANTI-GAMBLING PACT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Games and Amusement Board, Anti-Illegal Gambling Unit (GAB-AIGU) and the Philippine National Police's anti-illegal gambling task force signed an agreement June 20 to strengthen the government's campaign against illegal gambling, particularly in the provinces. Signing for the GAB was chair Eric Buhain (1st from left) and PNP chief Arturo Lomibao.

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☐ Vocational/Trade/Apprenticeship
☐ College
☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Master's degree/PhD
☐ Others (specify)________
b. Current Occupation________ How long?____(years)____(months)

IV-Language proficiency / Principal Applicant :

Language	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
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French				
Others (Specify)				

Spouse:

Language	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
English				
French				
Others (Specify)				

V-Marital Status
☐ Married
☐ Single
☐ Divorced/Separated
☐ Widow/widower
☐ Common-Law

VI- Spouse Detail (if married)
a. Full name (as shown in the passport/travel document)
(Family Name) (Given Name) (Middle Name)
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c. Children's Detail (if any) Please use extra sheet if necessary

Name	Date of Birth / Place of Birth

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☐ Yes
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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Artifacts from Biliran's past

THE REMAINS of a fortress at the Nasunugan Ruins in Biliran. ROLANDO O. BORRINAGA

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Naval, Biliran

A STONE Age tool, a broken earthen burial jar that contained human bones and a small pot, and a half-hectare complex of structural ruins have stirred deeper interest in Biliran province's culture and heritage among local officials, residents and researchers.

In December, Biliran Gov. Rogelio J. Espina and capitol employees got excited by the visit of an archeological team from the National Museum that included Dr. Eusebio Z. Dizon, chief archeologist, and Leo Batoon, researcher.

They were accompanied by Romulo Verana, a Manila-based government accountant and native of Biliran's Caibiran town.

The team came to dig an archeological test pit in Barangay Kaulangohan, Caibiran, where a Neolithic adze, a Stone Age cutting tool, was found some 30 years ago by Filomeno Rosario and his son, residents of the barangay. The artifact was brought to the National Museum and shown by Verana to Dizon in 1998.

Dizon had estimated that the Kaulangohan Neolithic adze dates back to 2,000 to 2,500 B.C. He said he believed the users of this adze were very early Austronesian migrants in the area around 2,500 B.C., before they moved elsewhere.

The site of the digging was named after *ulango*, a palm tree whose leaves provided fibers for Bisayan clothing in the 17th century. This tree is now probably extinct or known by another name.

Unfortunately, the digging was disrupted by a typhoon and had to be abandoned. In the meantime, the National Museum submitted an archeological project proposal for Biliran, which Dizon hoped would be funded by the provincial government.

Burial jar and pot

A lesser-known set of artifacts in Biliran is an earthen secondary burial jar that contained human bones and a small earthen pot. These were rejects left behind by treasure hunters who plundered the seaside cave on Tingkasan Islet off Barangay Balacson in Kawayan town for valuable items in the 1970s.

The hunters took centuries-old ceramics burial jars and bowls and intact earthen burial jars and items of commercial value, including beads and pieces of jewelry.

After they left, the residents of Balacson buried the bones and several broken burial jars with their contents in the floor of their Catholic chapel.

In the 1990s, when interest in local culture and heritage became a national fancy, the barangay chair of Balacson retrieved a broken burial jar that contained human bones and a small earthen pot from its burial site in the chapel.

On May 11, 2003 the Balacson pot, a wide-mouthed and slightly deformed artifact that perhaps contained send-off items such as food or pieces of jewelry for the dead, was loaned by the barangay for the Municipal Museum Display Contest in Naval. This was during the launching of the Biliran Museum Project that was timed with the 11th anniversary of Biliran.

Although the Kawayan Booth won the contest, the Balacson pot did not stand out among the many other display items because its historical details were not available then.

It can now be told that the Balacson burial jar and pot probably dates back to 800 A.D., based on comparison with photographs and carbon-dating data about similar artifacts found by archeologists inside caves in Samar and Sorsogon. They are much older than the ca. 13th-14th century ceramic jars and bowls taken from the Tingkasan Cave.

The Biliran Museum building has been completed and was inaugurated last May 11. It is called Museo de Panamao, after an ethnic fishing net that was also the old name of Biliran Island.

Nasunugan Ruins

The most extensive archeological curiosity in the province are the Nasunugan Ruins (which means burned ruins), a half-hectare complex of structural ruins on a hilltop near the highway just outside the poblacion of Biliran town.

For nearly a decade now, only the restored Nasunugan Watchtower, a Spanish era structure made of coral stone blocks, was known to outsiders, since its picture was printed on postcards and tourist brochures.

However, at around August last year, the area was prepared for the visit of the Biliran Provincial Tourism Council. In the process, students from the local college who cleared the garbage dump and thick vines and vegetation revealed the crumbling ruins of a more extensive fortress about 30 meters from the restored tower.

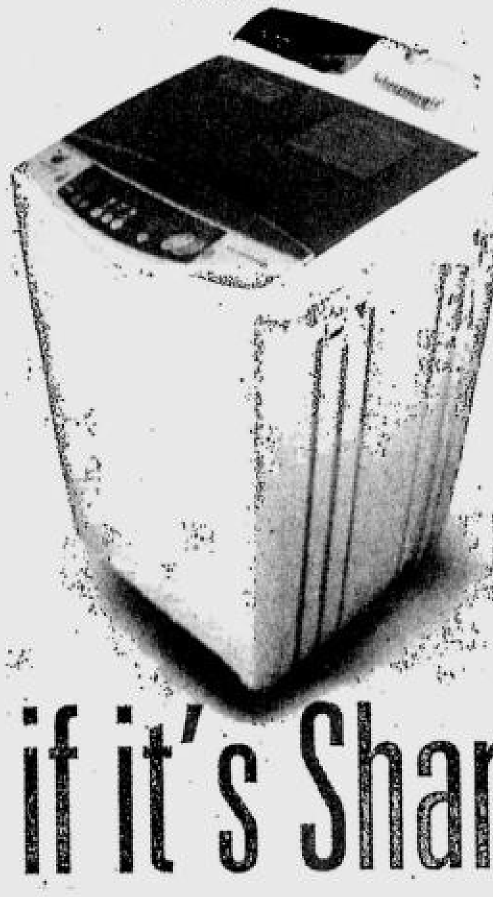
I first visited the ruins last September, guided by George Plecerda, the secretary of the mayor and local heritage aficionado. They found that the village chapel of the town's Core Shelter Project stood in the middle of a quadrangle that used to be enclosed by a massive gate and walls made of coral stone blocks some 15 meters from the fortress.

Below the quadrangle is a rectangular terrace surrounded by crumbling walls of coral stone blocks. The terrace ground is overgrown with banana clumps.

The original structures here were probably built around the time of the Biliran Religious Revolt from 1765 to 1774. Their architecture is original; they have not been patterned after other Spanish churches and watch towers found all over Leyte and Samar.

The Biliran revolt was led by Padre Gaspar Ignacio de Guevara, a native priest from Samar who was the first parish priest of the Biliran pueblo. He broke away from the Catholic Church, formed his own sect, and experimented with a commune society for the natives in the forest of Biliran, some eight kilometers from its protective fortress.

Padre Gaspar was captured by Moro pirates and drowned around 1774. The pirates or his followers later burned his forest commune and the structures in the existing ruins.



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Aklanons want to bid farewell to Cardinal Sin

From page A1

hometown even just for two days before his burial in Manila tentatively scheduled on June 28.

New Washington's church leaders and parishioners, led by Msgr. Nestor Nalangan, the town's parish priest, had been holding twice-a-day Masses, at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m., since Tuesday, after learning of the death of the cardinal, for the eternal repose of the prelate's soul.

Dacoroon, known here as "Lola Yoning," said Aklanons would want to have a final glimpse of their famous and revered town mate before he is buried.

Lola Yoning said she is a distant relative of Sin and has been with the Sin family for 60 years. In fact, she said, she was already around when Sin was still an altar boy at the church here.

The last time that Cardinal Sin went home was when his sister, Salvacion Sin, died on Nov. 18, 2001. Since then she never saw the cardinal, she said.

The Sin ancestral home, a six-bedroom Spanish-style house, which fronts the public plaza, has a chapel that can accommodate 50 people. The house's ground floor displayed portraits of the prelate and his family. The cardinal's bedroom, which adjoins his private office on the second floor, contains some of Sin's most cherished possessions: souvenir medals from Pope John Paul II and former US President Ronald Reagan, icons from former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a statuette from former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and mementos from his two visits in China, the birthplace of his father.

The house, which had been rebuilt and refurbished several times, originally served as a store and residence of Sin, his parents—Juan Sin and Maxima Reyes Lachica—and his siblings Salvacion, Rosario, Jose, Francisco, Maria, Manuel, Ramon and Ceferina.

The other Sins

Sin's surviving siblings gathered together to mourn the passing of their family jewel.

Ceferina arrived early yesterday from Los Angeles where she and her family have been staying since the 1960s. Maria, the youngest of the brood, is scheduled to arrive tomorrow also from LA.

Manuel, Ramon and Ceferina yesterday viewed their brother's remains for the first time since he died last Tuesday, following a noon Mass at the Manila Cathedral. They all made curiously quick glances at his dark mahogany casket.

"The family will miss him very much. He was very thoughtful," Ceferina, 69, told reporters yesterday.

His brother's keeper

Of the many memories they have of Sin, Ramon said he and his siblings would never forget the cardinal's devotion to the poor.

Sin donated his family inheritance, a six-hectare property in New Washington, Aklan, to the Pink Sisters. He also gave away Ramon's four-hectare plot and his late elder sister Salvacion's share of the family inheritance to religious congregations.

"He gave it away," Ramon, 70, recalled with fondness. "He didn't tell. I learned about it only when Mother Theresa wrote me a letter of thanks."

Of the siblings, Ramon was closest to the cardinal. A physician by profession, he said he devoted his whole life in the service of his high-profile brother.

"I could have become priest had it not been for my father," he said. "But I realized I was born to be a brother to Cardinal Sin. Period."

Ramon was always beside Sin especially during the toughest moments of his cardinalate. He took care of his brother. There was never a day when the two didn't see each other at Sin's home in Villa San Miguel, Mandaluyong.

Museum of Sin

"I would go there every day, even on Sunday," Ramon said. "I would check on his health, bring him news, pick up his laundry."

A big fan of Sin, Ramon has stacked his home in Kamias, Quezon City, with memorabilia of the former Manila archbishop.

Sin's chief archivist, he has newspaper articles on Sin, magazine covers with his picture, copies of three biographies written by Nick Joaquin, Fr. Sid Marinay and Felix Bautista and the two-volume "photo biographies" of Sin courtesy of Noli Yamsuan, the prelate's personal photographer for the last 31 years.

Ramon plans to put everything in the family's ancestral home in New Washington, and convert it into a "Museum of Sin."

Death mask

Like many great men before him, Sin will be remembered in stone and bronze busts done by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

Abueva yesterday took a mold of Sin's face for a "death mask," a valuable artifact used to honor great men.

"The death mask will provide a lasting legacy to future generations on how Cardinal Sin looked like," Fr. Rufino Sescon, Sin's longtime private secretary, told reporters.

Fernando Poe Jr. and Benigno Aquino Jr. also had death masks made by the renowned sculptor. Abueva had earlier sculpted a 10-foot bronze statue of the prelate at the Cardinal Sin Village in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila.

The Manila Cathedral was closed from 1:30 to 2 a.m. yesterday to allow Abueva and his team to take a mold of Sin's face.

Beside Santos' tomb

They had to open the dark mahogany casket to apply the "plaster of Paris" (a material that thickens like cement when mixed with water) to get an impression of the cardinal's face.

Three former Manila archbishops—American Michael O' Doherty, Gabriel Reyes and Rufino Santos—also had similar busts but they were not as accurate as the one that Sin would have, Sescon said.

Their tombs occupy three of the 10 slots available at the crypt exclusively for former Manila archbishops. Sin chose to be beside Santos' tomb.

Ms Arroyo not expected

Only around 50 people will be allowed inside the crypt during Sin's burial at 9 a.m. Tuesday, according to Sescon.

Slots will be exclusively for Sin's family and friends, Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and other key members of the clergy.

Sin's assistants at his Villa San Miguel home in Mandaluyong will lower his casket into the concrete tomb, Sescon said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was not expected at the crypt, he said.

Tribute to Sin

Ms Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino yesterday paid tribute to Sin who was instrumental in bringing the two women into power.

In a speech delivered in Malacañang at the second Benigno Aquino Jr. Award for Nationalism, an award given in memory of Ms Aquino's husband and late senator, Ms Aquino recalled how the cardinal, who passed away last Tuesday, was able to figure in the collapse of the Marcos regime.

She read excerpts from Ninoy's letter to Sin: "Your Eminence, only you can lead our exodus through the desert. Why you? Because you're a good priest, a shepherd teacher who really cares and more, you are a human being who loves."

When her husband wrote the letter, Ms Aquino said it was a time when most Filipinos were "in near despair" over the Marcos regime and "chose to remain silent because they were so afraid of the dictator Marcos."

On Feb. 22, 1986, it was Sin who called on the people to go to Edsa to protect then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos and around 300 soldiers against Marcos' forces.

"Cardinal Sin truly loved us, his fellow Filipinos, and he was prepared to risk his life in order to help in the restoration of our democracy," she said.

Ms Arroyo also remembered both Senator Aquino and Cardinal Sin in her speech.

She said Senator Aquino was a martyr for freedom and for peace.

"And it is in the spirit that we mark this day with mourning for another liberator, the man of God, who as President Aquino reminds us, presided over Ninoy's funeral mass and virtually made him a secular martyr of the church, Jaime Cardinal Sin," the President said. *Reports from Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau, Christian V. Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño*

Tarongoy's US colleague still in abductors' hands

From page A1

point on Tuesday by "a third-party contact."

He said the frail-looking 31-year-old accountant was wobbling, having lost his sense of balance after being blindfolded throughout his ordeal. He had to be supported as they walked from the checkpoint to a nearby hotel, he said.

"I even saw the mark of gauze and the plaster on his eyes," Seguis said.

The kidnappers demanded an embargo on the announcement of Tarongoy's release until after he was out of Baghdad, Seguis said, explaining the news was delayed by a day.

No ransom

They also warned Tarongoy to be careful with his statements lest he risk the safety of the remaining 5,000 Filipino workers in Iraq, he said.

Seguis denied the government paid a ransom, but said he could not vouch for Tarongoy's employer.

He credited, among other people, officials from Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon as well as Sunni religious leaders, contacts from Saddam Hussein's Baath party and Iraqi government officials for helping in Tarongoy's release.

At the same press briefing, the special envoy to the Middle East, Roy Cimatu, said the government has been quite successful in implementing the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq.

"We have prevented already the entry of Filipinos to a great extent," Cimatu said.

He said employers at the US-run Camp Victory had told him that they were now hiring workers from other countries, particularly Thailand and India, because it has been difficult to get Filipino workers.

Filipinos used to comprise the largest number of foreign workers in Iraq.

The government last year banned Filipinos from going to work in Iraq following the abduction of truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

No travel to Iraq

All Philippine passports are stamped: "No Travel to Iraq."

De la Cruz was freed in July 2004 after the government gave in to his kidnappers' demand that it withdraw its token military contingent in Iraq.

The United States criticized that decision as it did the ban on the deployment of Filipino migrant workers to Iraq.

A US State Department official in Washington, D. C. told a briefing for visiting Asian journalists last Tuesday "[it] ought to be up to the workers to decide what are the risks and benefits of going to Iraq."

"We would advise against making bans against going to Iraq. As long as the people know the risk, they are adults and they should be allowed to make their decisions," the official said.

The official briefed the visiting journalists on the opening of a conference in Brussels where representatives of some 80 nations and organizations gathered to muster support for Iraq's political stability and economic revival.

Governments fearing for their migrant workers' safety can issue warnings about Iraq as the US does for its citizens, the US official said.

Their own decision

"But we do not tell our workers that they are forbidden from there because they will say, 'Hey, that's my decision to make, what I want to do with my life,'" he said.

Despite the government's deployment ban, there are still an estimated 5,000 Filipino workers in Iraq.

Cimatu said that while some OFWs manage to slip into Iraq, the government has relatively succeeded in reducing their number.

Tarongoy had left the Philippines to work in Qatar in June 2004 but later slipped into Iraq.

Cimatu and Seguis appealed anew to Filipinos to think twice about seeking employment in Iraq.

He said the situation there had again "deteriorated" and that violence was on the "uptrend," with massive military operations and increased efforts by militants against the new Iraqi government.

The US State Department official said that if Filipino truck drivers were not allowed to go into Iraq, "believe me, other truck drivers will be there."

Despite continuing security risks, Iraq's oil-based economy has begun to recover and per capita income has "almost doubled" since the US-led campaign to topple Saddam Hussein, he said.

Wages in Iraq are now "very high because of the risks," the official said. *Nikko Dizon and AP with a report from Volt Contreras*

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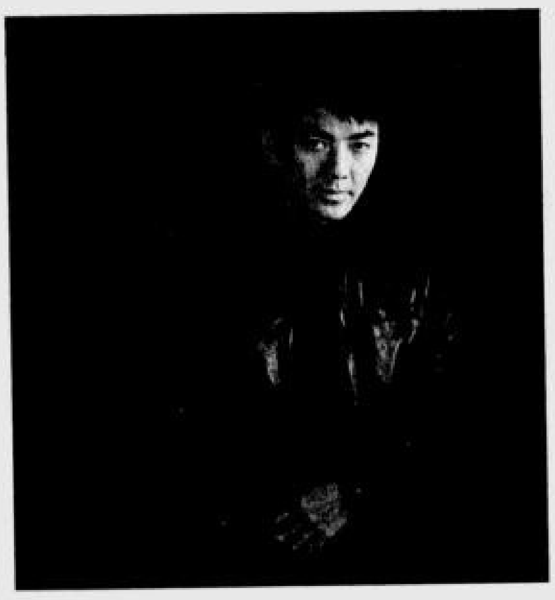

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HOT AND COLD The celebrations of Manila and San Juan of their respective founding anniversaries were a study in contrast. At left, guests in Manila feast on barbecue at the Escolta Wharf, while San Juan residents (right) douse water on revelers.

ROGER MARGALLO

2 Malabon villages sink as dikes burst

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO BARANGAYS in Malabon City went under water yesterday after three fishpond dikes burst.

Hardest hit was Barangay Dampalit, with a population of 6,000, while adjacent Barangay Hulong Duhat was partially affected.

Specifically hard-hit were North Merville Park 1 and Doña Juana Rodriguez subdivisions, and Sitio Pitong Gatang, all in Dampalit.

The water began to rise yesterday morning, said Vangie Reyes, an officer of Dampalit.

"We thought it was just the regular high tide," said Reyes.

According to her, the dikes of three fishponds in their barangay collapsed after water had eroded their soft base.

Reyes identified the owners of the fishponds as Jerry Guballa and Ernie Cruz.

Dampalit, which is bounded by the Obando and Muzon rivers in the north, and the Batasan and Dampalit rivers in the south, is comprised largely of fishponds.

At the height of the flooding, which was from two to four feet deep, a one-and-a-half-year-old child nearly drowned.

Baby Boy Pascual fell into the water while playing in their house on R. Andal Street, Merville Park.

The boy reportedly stayed under water for about three minutes before he was rescued.

He was confined at the hospital where he was given first aid and placed under observation.

"We never expected this to happen because of the supposed Camanava flood control dike, [which now] seems useless," Reyes said.

The last time water rose to yesterday's level was in 2003.

"We appeal to our local and national officials to help us," said Jojo Cruz, another barangay official.

At around 3 p.m., a six-wheel truck sent by the local government arrived to ferry residents to their respective streets. Pedicabs were also available for P20 per person.

PTA president collects illegal fees, arrested

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THIS time, she went too far.

The Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) president of a high school in San Mateo, Rizal, was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) earlier this week for allegedly collecting illegal contributions from students.

Gregoria Macatiag, of Bignay Street, Quezon City, was nabbed after parents of affected students of Silangan National High School filed a complaint before the NBI after they discovered that she had asked contributions from students without the approval of the PTA board of directors.

A background check by the bureau's General Investigation and Intelligence Division (GIID) on Macatiag showed that there were at least five standing warrants of arrest for illegal recruitment and estafa under her name.

A GIID report said the NBI arrested Macatiag in 1996 for the same offenses.

Macatiag reportedly posted bail, but was again sought by the bureau earlier this year for another violation.

NBI agents arrested Macatiag when she was about to preside over a PTA meeting regarding the illegal contributions.

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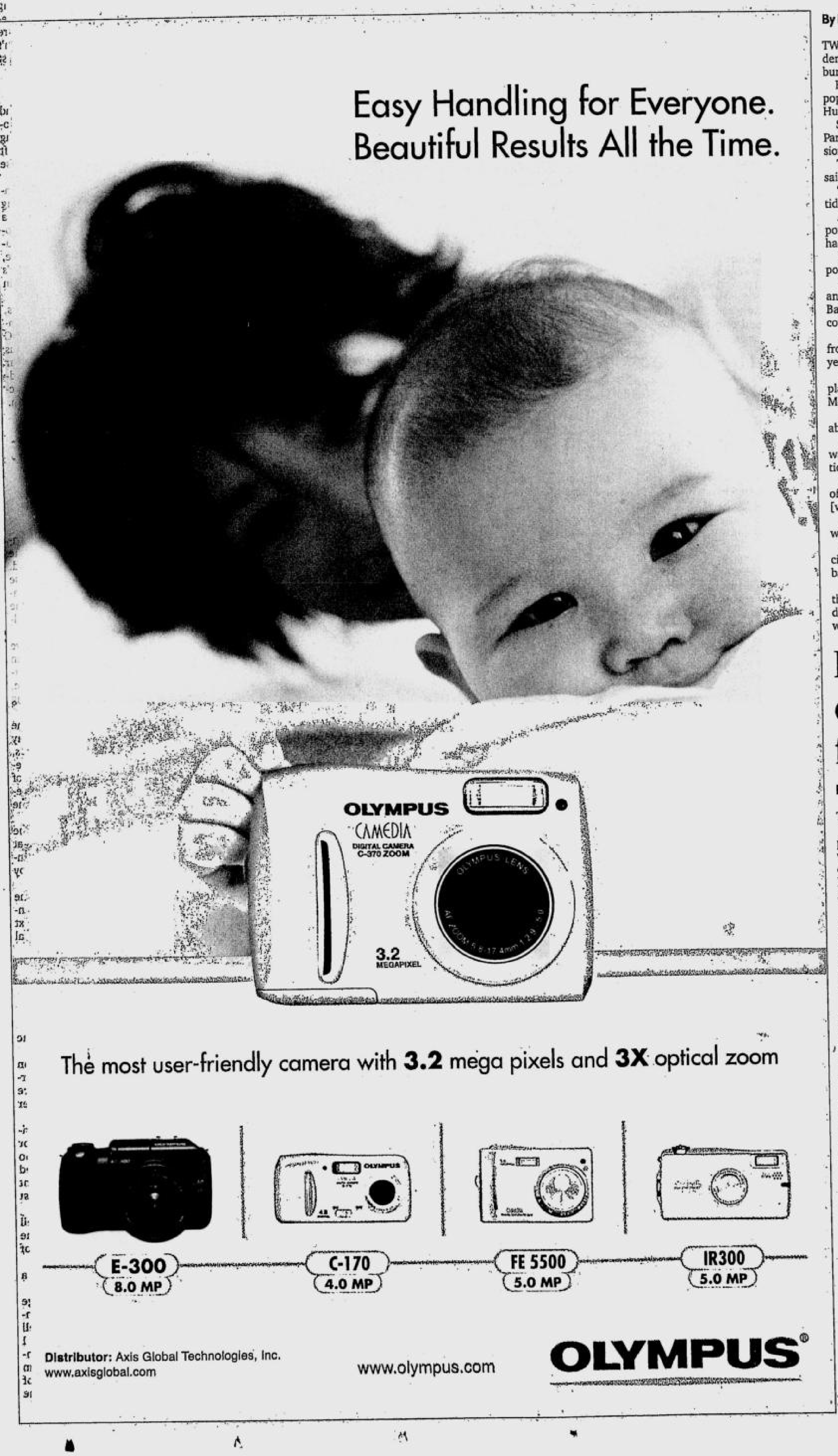

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A war remembered at MariKorea

Veterans to unveil marker in Marikina

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHERE now stands a community mall and a park was a patch of grassland on a hill more than half a century ago.

Residents in Marikina City refer to the place as Parang.

But retired Col. Jovencio Dominguez and his comrades would rather call it MariKorea.

The name is a combination of Marikina City and Korea, separated by a vast distance but linked by history.

On that wide tract of land in Marikina City, Dominguez, 74, and his fellow soldiers underwent rigorous training before joining their colleagues to fight in the Korean War 55 years ago.

"We were there to go on training. We set up camps there," recalled Dominguez, a member of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok).

Invasion from north

The Philippines sent more than 7,000 soldiers to South Korea after the North Korean People's Army invaded the Republic of Korea on June 25, 1950, according to information gathered from the Peftok Veterans Association Inc. at the Marikina City Hall.

Most of the battalions sent to South Korea underwent rigorous training in the hills of MariKorea, Dominguez said.

But the place is unrecognizable to him now. He can no longer pinpoint exactly where they had stayed, since huge buildings and houses had replaced the trees and lush foliage in the area.

Dominguez, then 19 years old, was a member of the 19th Battalion Combat Team, one of five battalions sent to Korea by then President Elpidio Quirino.

"Going to battle in Korea was hard for many of us. Intense fighting usually erupted in the evening, and lasted until dawn. We fought in mountainous terrain," Dominguez said.

According to the Peftok association records, 112 Filipino soldiers were killed, 400 were wounded and 60 were imprisoned during the five-year war.

But compared to the participation of Filipino soldiers in other foreign wars, only a few remember the heroism of Filipino soldiers who went to Korea, said writer Art Villasanta in a website he made for the association.

Today, Parang's—or MariKorea's—place in history will be remembered as members of the association unveil a Korean War Memorial Marker at the Liwasang Kalayaan in Barangay Marikina Heights.

The marker will not only honor the Filipino soldiers who bravely fought in the Korean War, it will also remind residents in the city about the significance of this place in their city's history.

The marker is also the first to be built in the country for Filipino veterans of the Korean War.

Apart from surviving Filipino veterans of the Korean War, officials from South Korea and Koreans based in Metro Manila are expected to attend the program today, according to association president Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro.

A MARKER stands on a hill in Marikina City as a reminder of how 7,000 Filipino soldiers trained and fought during the Korean War in the 1950s. JOAN BONDOC

27 MMDA traffic aides out in cold

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LESSON learned: rains shall not scare a traffic enforcer away.

Some 27 traffic enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) are now facing sanctions for allegedly abandoning their posts while heavy rains drenched Metro Manila three weeks ago.

The MMDA Traffic Operations Center (TOC) reported this week that the traffic enforcers left their traffic detail before nightfall on June 4 when heavy rains fell over the metropolis.

"I have always maintained that being remiss on duty has no place in the MMDA," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, commenting on the move. "Our gains, especially in traffic management, are hard-earned and we wouldn't want to erode the public's trust and confidence in us."

Posts abandoned

TOC Roadside Arbitration and Personnel Inspection head Antonio Pagulayan said monitoring teams showed that the men left their posts to seek shelter because of the heavy rains.

The absence of traffic enforcers on the roads left passing vehicles unguided, creating a traffic breakdown on Edsa, Aurora Boulevard, Arayat Street, P. Tuazon, Gen. McArthur Avenue, and roads leading to Farmer's Market and Baliwag Terminal in Cubao, Quezon City.

Of the 27 errant enforcers, three had already been recommended for dismissal, as the TOC found out that they had previous violations and were not regular employees. The others face administrative charges for dereliction of duty and insubordination.

Group sues LTFRB before Ombudsman

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Council for Commuter Protection (NCCP) Inc. has filed a graft case against the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) before the Office of the Ombudsman.

The commuters' group said that the LTFRB committed graft when it rendered a hasty and unjustified decision to grant a P2 increase in minimum fare of jeeps and ordinary metro buses.

NCCP lawyer Vicente Millora scored the LTFRB for "manifest partiality, gross inexcusable negligence" and for "causing undue injury to one party and granting unwarranted benefits, advantages or preferences to another party."

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista welcomed the filing of the charges.

"They are free to do that so the public may know that our decision is beneficial to commuters," she said.

The NCCP maintains that the fare hike should only be P1 and not P2.

On Tuesday, the NCCP asked the Department of Transportation and Communication to stop the P2 fare increase.

In its petition to the DOTC, the commuters' group said the LTFRB abused its discretion when it approved an "excessive" fare hike and, after some deliberation on a petition opposing it, allowed its immediate implementation.

The amount approved by the LTFRB, according to the NCCP, outpaced fuel price increases and allocated a 15-percent increase in the boundary sought by operators even when there was no petition for it.

The NCCP said the P2 hike would unduly raise the income of drivers at the expense of 15 million daily commuters.

Founded in November 2004, the NCCP claims to be the first and only commuter group in the country. It claims to have 10,000 members volunteering to advance the cause of commuters.

"The LTFRB declares the P2 fare hike is also intended to cover future increases in fuel prices, which are too presumptuous, speculative and not covered by the petition," said the NCCP in a statement.

Implicitly, Bautista admitted that the fare increase was more than the level of the previous fuel increases.

The NCCP said the impact of any fuel price hike resulting from the implementation of the value-added tax should be covered by a separate petition.

Vendors drop protest against oceanarium

By Jerome Aning

AFTER weeks of delay, the construction of the country's first world-class oceanarium at the Luneta Boardwalk in Rizal Park is scheduled to begin when concessionaires in the area affected by the move agreed to leave the premises voluntarily.

Philippine Tourism Authority General Manager Robert Dean Barbers said the majority of the concessionaires belonging to the Luneta Boardwalk Tenants Association have allowed PTA personnel, the National Parks Development Committee and the police to start clearing their stalls.

Several stall owners initially opposed the project, claiming it violated their earlier contract with the PTA. A temporary restraining order they sought from the court earlier was voided by a Manila judge last week.

Barbers said that he was glad that the majority of the concessionaires realized the benefits of the project in terms of job and tourism opportunities, thus helping the country's economic growth.

Two months ago, Barbers entered into an agreement with the China Oceanis Group Ltd. (COGL), a Malaysian-Chinese consortium, to embark on constructing an oceanarium in the Luneta boardwalk worth $20 million.

The oceanarium would give Filipinos and foreign tourists an opportunity to experience a saltwater walk-through aquarium, and a simulated beach fronting the facility for swimmers.

Under the agreement, the COGL would also build a bay pavilion featuring retail shops, restaurants and a plaza for special events. The area in front of the Boardwalk would also be developed into a park open to the public for free.

According to Barbers, the agreement is a remarkable feat considering that this project entails no sovereign guarantee by the government.

The COGL would still pay the government P16.5 million per annum in rental fees for the next five years, with an incremental increase of 10 percent.

Help just a phone call away on Taguig hotline

By Jocelyn R. Uy

YOU CAN now dial a special number in Taguig City if you need help in case of an emergency.

The 24-hour anticrime hotline is patterned after the mechanics of a public service-oriented call center.

All residents have to do is dial 640-2222, the hotline number, when in need of assistance from the local police, the fire station and local government offices.

Even problems on traffic and uncollected garbage could be relayed through the hotline for proper action.

The hotline's goal is to respond to any emergency within two to five minutes after a call is made.

As part of the intensified war against crime, 10 new mobile cars were assigned to patrol the city's 18 barangays around the clock.

Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tiñga also encouraged residents to be vigilant by immediately reporting persons acting suspiciously in their neighborhood through the 24-hour hotline.

Just last Saturday, an unidentified man was found dead with gunshot wounds in his head and abdomen. On Tuesday, unidentified men exchanged fire with responding policemen, leaving one victim dead in Maharlika Village.

Last month, three members of the Napura family and their maid were found dead inside their home in Barangay Western Bicutan.

The grisly killings were solved 72 hours after the incident was reported to police through a phone call.

METROBRIEFS

6 more years await 'Pajero Lady'

SIX MORE years may be added to the sentence of escaped "Pajero Lady" Ma. Lourdes de Guzman, who became notorious for going around posh subdivisions in a Pajero van to steal from homes. De Guzman was charged the other day with evasion of service of sentence before the Quezon City prosecutor. She escaped on June 13 from St Luke's Hospital in Quezon City, where she had undergone an operation. She has been convicted and sentenced to six to 20 years at the correctional women's facility in Mandaluyong City for robbing a house in Fort Bonifacio, Makati. *DJ Yap*

Kapihan turns 20

KAPIHAN sa Manila, the original breakfast forum, is 20 years old and will have a special anniversary show on June 27 at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Showtime is at 9 p.m. For ticket reservations, please call 758-3228, 252-1560, 845-4055, 0921-8061080 or Nella Lim, project director, at 0916-5681357. Refer to: Neal H. Cruz, chair of Kapihan.

Abu sacked for arrogance

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF NOT for his arrogance, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu's retirement yesterday would have been deferred amid the political tension.

Malacañang had earlier extended Abu's term indefinitely—perhaps from three to six months—until after President Macapagal-Arroyo weathered the political storm.

But the President changed her mind because of a supposedly minor "request" from the Palace that Abu didn't accommodate, according to my Malacañang source.

The President had wanted Abu to retain the military bodyguards of a private individual who had crossed the AFP chief.

But Abu didn't want the bodyguards returned to the civilian, saying "*tanggalin na lang n'yo ako rito* (you might as well remove me here)." Abu reportedly gave the statement to the military officer who relayed the President's request.

"Well, he got his wish. He was promptly relieved," said a Malacañang source.

Because of Abu's swell-headedness, he might not be appointed ambassador to Indonesia. He was being groomed for the plum diplomatic post because of his reported closeness to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Abu was supposed to have been given a parade and review at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday upon his exit from service. He reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 yesterday, his birthday.

But yesterday's military honors were postponed for a later date after Malacañang announced that his services were extended in the wake of the political tension. Until that incident of insubordination took place.

Upon learning about Abu's unceremonious relief, I called up some of my sources in the military and told them about the incident.

One officer said he was not surprised Abu would act arrogantly even toward the President. "*Mayabang 'yan noon pa, wala namang alam* (He was insolent even before, yet he's incompetent)."

"It's a good thing the President has seen Abu's true colors," another officer said.

The news about Abu's unceremonious relief would be received with jubilation by many officers and the rank-and-file who perceive him as indifferent to the plight of troops in the field.

A number of officers and enlisted personnel I've talked to have criticized Abu's sidewalk renovation project in Camp Aguinaldo, and the construction of a military resort in Boracay.

Col. Ricardo Morales, commander of the 404th Infantry Brigade based in Mawab, Davao del Norte, voiced the general sentiment in the Armed Forces when he questioned the sidewalk and military resort projects, saying many soldiers were dying in the battlefield because of the lack of medicines.

Abu promptly sacked Morales.

Yesterday, Abu felt how it was like to be sacked for opening his mouth like Morales did.

What goes around comes around, as people who believe in karmic justice say.

* * *

Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Army commander, was immediately installed Armed Forces chief of staff vice Abu.

Senga's designation as AFP chief caught many people in the know by surprise. He was running second only to Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, Navy flag officer-in-command, among the candidates to replace Abu.

But tradition finally won over the President's preference, apparently because there has never been a Navy officer who became chief of staff.

De Leon became the President's favorite candidate for AFP chief because it was he who planned the mission that killed Abu Sabaya, the flamboyant spokesperson of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group.

Senga and De Leon (as well as Abu) belonged to Philippine Military Academy Class of 1972.

De Leon took his defeat like a true officer and gentleman.

De Leon, in a text message sent to his writer, said: "(Senga's) appointment speaks well of his excellent track record. I wish to extend to him my congratulations, and I assure him of my full support and that of the men and women of the Philippine Navy."

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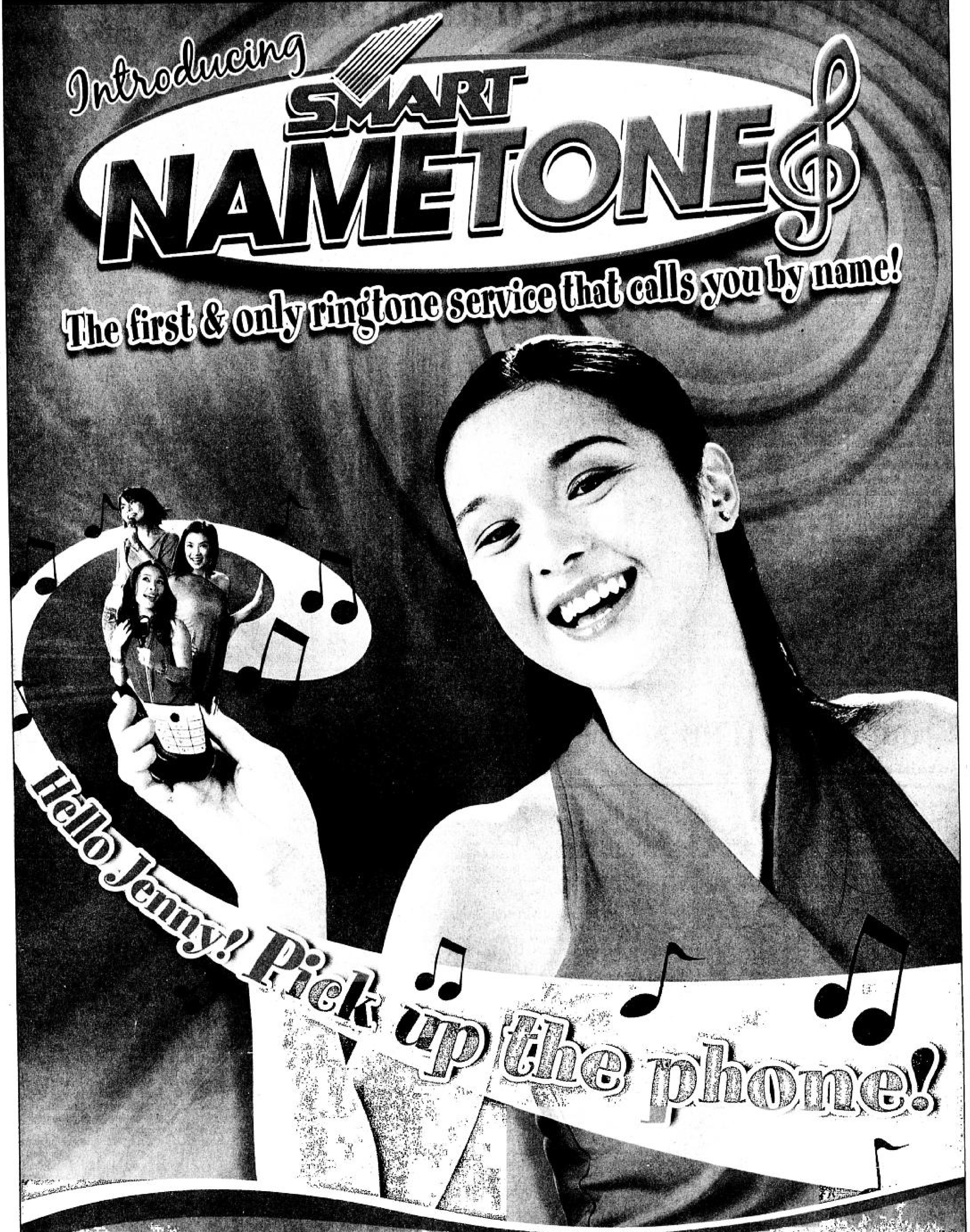
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Duncan, Ginobili lead Spurs to NBA crown

San Antonio claims 3rd title in 7 years

SAN Antonio's Tim Duncan celebrates as the Spurs defeat the Detroit Pistons, 81-74, to win the NBA Championship in game seven of the NBA finals.

AP

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Tim Duncan shrugged off a stretch of eight straight misses to dominate the fourth quarter of Game 7 on Thursday, finishing with 25 points and 11 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs claimed the NBA title with an 81-74 win over the Detroit Pistons.

Duncan earned his third Most Valuable Player award of the finals, giving San Antonio its third title in seven years and denying Detroit a chance to repeat.

"He showed that he cannot only deal with that pressure, but overcome it," former teammate David Robinson said.

"A lot of athletes would have crumbled under that type of pressure, but he came out in that second half and showed unbelievable championship character. I'm so proud of him because he just really solidified himself as one of the top couple of power forwards ever. I mean, unbelievable character—just awesome," he said.

In turning around the worst postseason series of his career, Duncan teamed with Manu Ginobili to help the Spurs overcome a nine-point deficit in the third quarter to tie it going into the final period.

The Spurs are certainly not a dynasty, but their staying power as a championship caliber team—and their performance in the NBA's first Game 7 in the finals since 1994—helps validate their legacy.

Ginobili scored 23 points with a series of slashing, scintillating drives and big passes, and his drive through traffic for a layup late in the fourth quarter took the last of the fight out of the Pistons.

"I don't even think we've scratched the surface of him," Duncan said. "He's going to continue to

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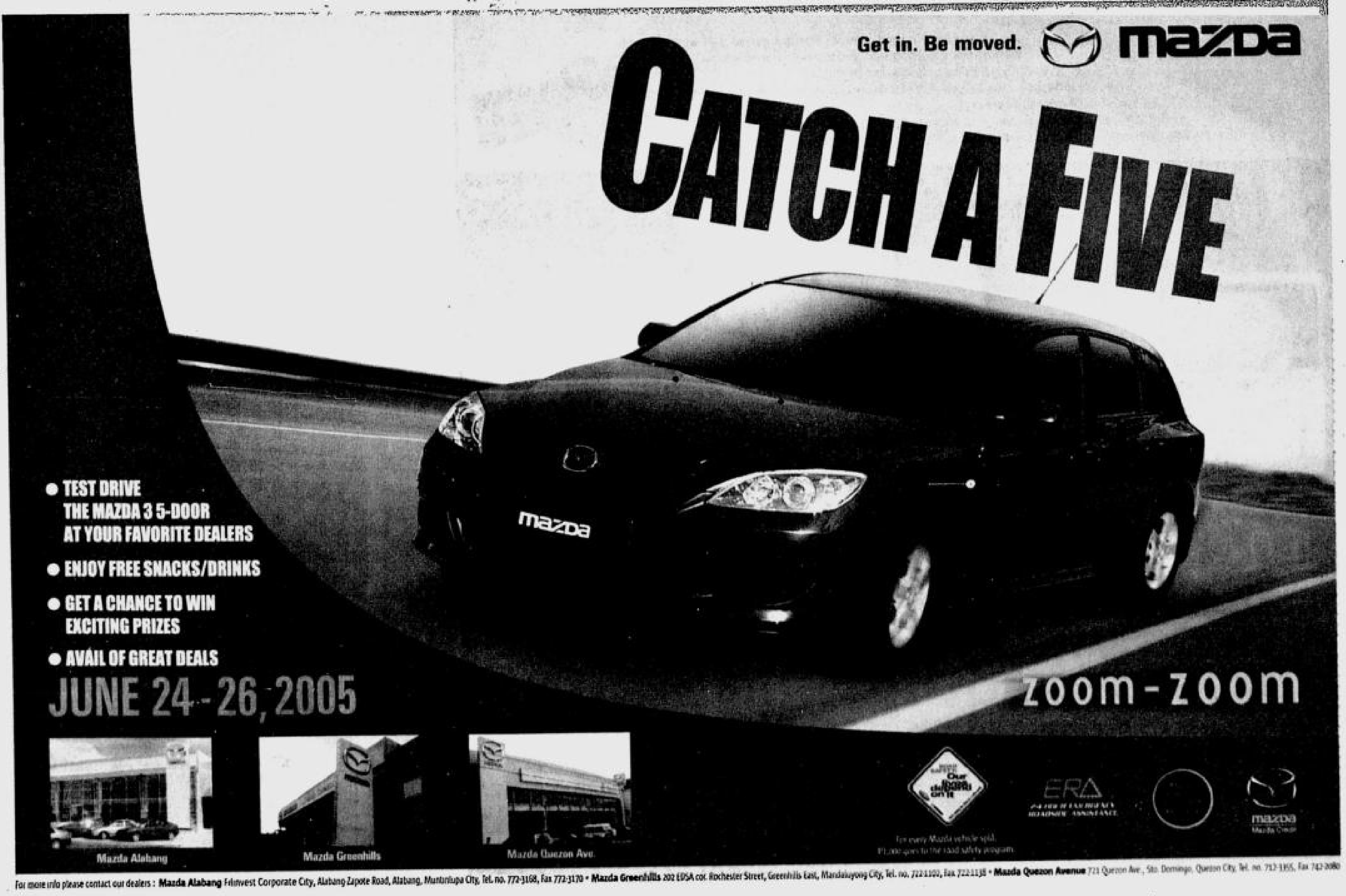

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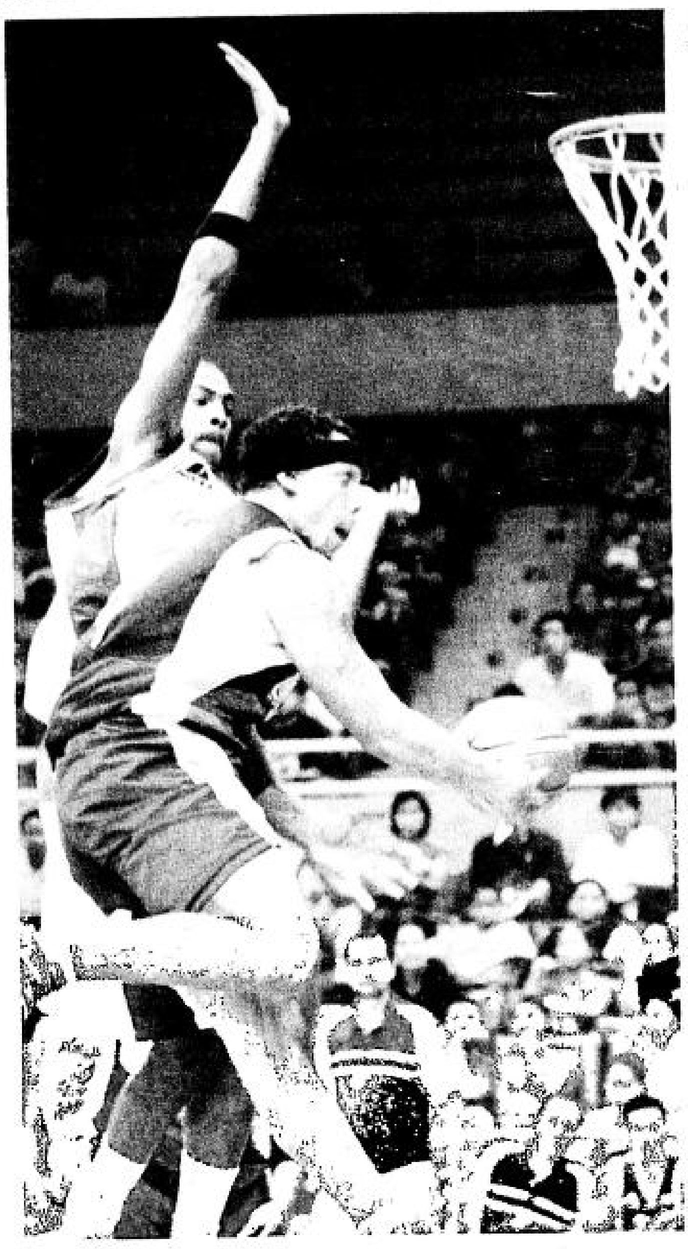
Talk 'N Text outguns Shell for 2-1 lead



TALK 'N TEXT forward Harvey Carey tries to sneak in a lay-up against the defense of Shell's Ajani Williams. RYAN LIM

By June Navarro

AT THIS stage of the series, inserting Asi Taulava into the Talk 'N Text lineup will definitely smack of an overkill.

The Phone Pals hardly needed their ace slotman to subdue the Shell Turbo Chargers, 91-78, and move to within a win of a championship ticket in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference semifinals last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Mark Telan's smothering defense on Ajani Williams and the dominating presence of Jerald Honeycutt in the paint were more than enough for the Phone Pals to move to a 2-1 edge in their the best-of-five series.

"Shell is a team of great scorers," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals trailed 21-23 in the first period before speeding away in the next three quarters. "Good thing we defended well tonight."

"It's a good feeling that we got back the advantage," he added. "But we can't afford to relax yet, they (Turbo Chargers) won't go away that easy."

Honeycutt led three other Phone Pals in double figures after tallying 21 points and 15 rebounds. Telan scored 10 of his 16 in the second half while Jimmy Alapag and Vic Pablo added 11 points each.

Still, Banal is looking forward for a Taulava reinstatement.

"From what I've been hearing, Asi's papers are okay," said Banal. "I don't know exactly why he's not playing [yet].

"He's practicing with us. He's part of the team and we're hoping that he could join us soon."

Taulava has been in the freezer for lack of documents to prove his Filipino lineage, but just recently, the justice department okayed the papers he submitted. This means the 6-foot-9 center should be free to play soon.

The scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 91—Honeycutt 21, Telan 16, Alapag 11, Pablo 11, Belano 8, Carey 7, Ravena 6, Miller 6, Fran 5, Camaso 0, De Ocampo 0

SHELL 78—Calaguio 27, Tubid 12, Williams 11, Yap 9, Mamaril 6, Dela Cruz 6, Sotto 3, Ferreria 2, Alvarez 2

Quarters: 21-23, 45-35, 67-56, 91-78.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
(Game 4 best-of-five semifinal series)
4:15 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs San Miguel Beer
6:35 p.m.—Shell vs Talk 'N Text

Lina, BAP ready for unity talks with POC

By Musong R. Castillo

THE OLD and controversial Basketball Association of the Philippines is sporting a new face and a new attitude to go with it.

Newly installed president Joey Lina yesterday said he will appeal the suspension slapped on the cage body by the Philippine Olympic Committee and reach out to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

"We have to achieve unity, that's what's important," Lina said in a telephone interview. "We will continue to reach out to them (POC) and use all avenues for unity and cooperation."

A former senator and interior and local government secretary, Lina also pledged to share BAP's responsibilities with the sport's major stakeholders.

"We already wrote the POC, reiterating the request for the lifting of the suspension," Lina said. "Hopefully, this (dispute with POC) can be amicably settled. There is nothing that cannot be solved."

"Basketball being considered a national interest, the BAP will co-share with other basketball stakeholders the responsibility," said Lina, who took over from the ailing Quinteliano Literal.

The POC general assembly suspended the BAP a few weeks ago over what Cojuangco said was the cage body's failure to adhere to the covenant it earlier forged with the stakeholders, including the PBA, PBL, UAAP and the NCAA.

Lina articulated the BAP's new stance a day after the election of officers for the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., the new body created to take over the BAP, was postponed.

Lina, though, will have to wait until June 28 for Cojuangco, who is in the United States for his annual physical checkup.

LINA: Reaching out

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Espiritu Cup caging July 15

NO less than 10 teams are expected to see action when the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament unfolds on July 15.

Espiritu, the popular player agent known as the country's Jerry Maguire, is staging the event in cooperation with the National Basketball Conference headed by reigning national pistol champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

"This (tournament) is my personal project in helping promote sports, particularly basketball," said Espiritu. "Through this tournament, I hope to give exposure to fresh talents. I'm happy that I have found a new partner in NBC."

Padilla said the Espiritu Cup is a big boost to basketball.

"In fact, some of the participants might even get to play with NBC teams."

Among the teams which have expressed their desire to play are Air 21, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Harbour Centre, Homer Go, Sta. Rosa City, PATTS, Pamplona-Dumaguete, Emilio Aguinaldo College, San Sebastian College-Cavite, Mediatrix, Konica and UA Pamplona.

Team managers of interested teams are requested to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. on July 5 at Funtastic at Airport Road.

China stint an eye-opener for RP belles

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

QINHUANGDAO, China—One by one the RP cagebelles fell to the enemy, first to the big and burly Kazakhs, next to the North Koreans and then to the Indians, in the elimination round of the 21st Fiba-Asia Championship for women.

All these three teams with whom we were bracketed in Level 2 were taller and extremely superior in three-point shooting.

We were dwarfed and completely outshot.

In my previous column, I mentioned that we didn't have the luck of the draw because we were bracketed with the strongest teams in Level 2, two of which, according to Fiba-Asia secretary general Yeoh Choo-hock, were definitely Level 1 material.

These are Kazakhstan and North Korea, two of the four teams that will be fighting for finals berths in the crossover semifinals. The other two are Hong Kong and Malaysia.

This thing about not having the luck of the draw was only my personal opinion. Veteran cager Estrellita "Tet" Enriquez has a different opinion.

* * *

"On the contrary, we were lucky to be bracketed with the stronger teams because we got the better workout," she said, reminding me that our objective here, first and foremost, is international exposure because ours is basically a new team.

"Never mind if we lost all our games in the elims," said Tet, who also competed in the Fiba-Asia competition held in Sendai, Japan, in January 2004. "The important thing is we gained valuable experience.

"There were only four teams and one bracket in Level 2 then—Hong Kong, Malaysia, India and the Philippines. Now that number has doubled."

"*Maganda* (It's good), this is a gritty, scrappy, never-say-die team that we have. They managed to overcome all the obstacles, the controversies that came their way. *Buo pa rin ang* morale, *basta laro lang sila* (The team's morale is intact and they're playing their game), no holding back. They gave it their all in every game."

* * *

Aurora Adriano, nicknamed AA by her teammates and younger sister of San Miguel Beer's Francis Adriano, is one of the most promising from among the new batch of nationals.

AA said this Fiba-Asia stint has definitely bolstered her confidence, composure and even dedication.

"*Nung una medyo kabado ako, lalo na nung makita ko kung gaano kalalaki ang mga kalaban. Pero nung pinasok na ko at nag-umpisa na ang* game, *nawala na yung takot ko* (I was nervous at first, especially when I saw how tall the other teams were. But when I was fielded in, my fears vanished)," AA said.

So how does she look at the competition in the forthcoming Manila Southeast Asian Games, namely defending champion Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore?

"*Kaya natin* (We can measure up to them)," she said. "*Kailangan lang tayong mag-*reinforce *ng malalaking* players (We only need to reinforce the team with taller players)."

* * *

In Level 1 of the the Fiba-Asia, South Korea outclassed China, 63-56, the other day to land in first place, with the mighty Chinese relegated to second spot.

This I have to check, but according to a television news report, the first four teams will still figure in a crossover knockout match to determine the finalists.

There are only five teams in Level 1. Only Thailand has been eliminated, which means Chinese Taipei and Japan also advanced to the crossover semifinals.

The Philippines has two more games in the consolation round to determine final placings. We are scheduled to go up against Singapore Saturday morning. The Singaporeans are reinforced by six mainland Chinese.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Olympic consciousness is running high here in Beijing and surrounding areas where every nook and cranny carry materials of the world's biggest sporting event. On television, plugs are flashed at regular intervals... the youngest RP cager is Machiko Matsuno, a 17-year-old Filipina-Japanese who had to secure a permit from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to travel to China. Chiko, as she's called, also plays for the national youth team.

RP Int'l 9-Ball Open starts

UNLIKE the in-form Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcollo will have to sweat it out at the start of the qualifying round of the Philippine International 9-Ball Open today at the Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall.

Manalo, back-to-back winner in the United States pool circuit, drew a bye while Orcollo needs to get past Taiwanese Cheng Kuo-po in the opener.

Eight players with clean slates after the third round will advance to the main draw starting June 27.

The third round losers, on the other hand, will face the survivors from the losers' bracket to fill up the last four slots.

Other top players that may collide on or before the third round of the double elimination qualifier are last year's world pool runner-up Chang Pei-wei, veteran campaigners Venancio Tanio, Rodolfo Luat and Leonardo Andam; Malaysian ace Patrick Ooi and recent Asian Tour winner Ronnie Alcano.

Seeded in the tournament co-organized by Puyat Sports and Solar Sports are Filipino stars Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan; Americans Johnny Archer, Gabe Owen, Corey Deuel, Rodney Morris and Charlie Williams; European aces Mika Immonen, Thorsten Hohmann, Neils Feijen, Tony Drago, Marcus Chamat and Thomas Engert; Taiwanese big guns Yang Ching Shun and Wu Chia Ching; Japanese bets Satoshi Kawabata and Kunihiko Takahashi and Korean Jeong Young Hwa.

REYES: Sentimental favorite

BUSTAMANTE: Still a force

Deuel, winless in three previous starts here, believes his familiarity with the Filipino brand of play will help him go deep into the 32-man tournament.

"Filipinos are very good in pool and certainly you have to beat them if you want to win the tournament," he said during the weekly SCOOP sa Kamayan session yesterday.

"I have faced Bata and Django many times before and I think that will work to my advantage."

The event offers $20,000 to the champion, $10,000 to second, $4,000 each to the losing semifinalists, $2,000 each to fifth and sixth, $1,000 each to seventh and eighth, $750 each to ninth to 12th, $500 each to 13th-16th, $300 each to 17th-24th and $200 each to 25th-32nd.

Arcilla pulls rug from under Tierro

NUMBER 2 Filipino campaigner Johnny Arcilla proved that he is ready to reclaim the top position yesterday when he outplayed Patrick John Tierro, 6-3, 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-4, in the finals of the Philta Invitational Challenge at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports center in Pasig City.

The 28-year-old Arcilla, who was replaced by Tierro at the top early this year, worked behind a steady baseline game in the first set and held off the Subic-based teener in the second set tiebreak.

Arcilla pocketed the 30,000 top purse while Tierro settled for the runner-up prize of 15,000.

In the battle for third place and 10,000, Rolando Ruel Jr. beat former Davis Cupper Adelo Abadia, 6-1, 6-3, 7-6 (5). Ruel consoled himself with the fourth place money of 6,000.

Four others Davis Cup team member Joseph Victorino, Ralph Kevin Barte, Chemiel Mantua and Michael Adrian Basco received 3,000 each from the organizing Philippine Tennis Association.

SUN STAR BILLIARDS

Alcano makes it 2 in row

CEBU CITY—Still fresh off his amazing victory in Manila last week, Ronnie Alcano outlasted Dennis Orcollo, 15-13, Thursday night to rule the 4th Sun Star Superbalita 9-Ball championship at the SM City-Cebu Trade Hall here.

Alcano, who outshone a strong field that included Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante to win the Manila leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, pocketed the P100,000 top purse. Orcollo settled for the runner-up prize of P50,000.

In Class B play, 17-year-old Bebien Jabien outplayed Romeo Silvano, 11-5, to bag the title.

Other winners were Rechelyn dela Cruz, who downed Eva Alcuirez, 7-2, for the women's crown; Marvin Gentapa, who beat Jose Pepe Cardeño for the high school plum; and Ted Trapilla, who outlasted Dionel Raga for the elementary title.

ALCANO: Back-to-back titles

On the way to the finals, Alcano whipped last year's runner-up, Lee Van Corteza, 13-4, while Orcollo, the 2003 champion, defeated inaugural champion Antonio "Gaga" Gabica, 13-10.

The semifinals and finals of this event co-presented by Touch Mobile and backed by Outlast Battery and Cafe Puro will be aired next week over IBC-13 through Rocketman Production.

Alcano and Orcollo kept the match all though the finals.

Leading at 10-9, Alcano scratched off the break but Orcollo bungled his chance to pull even when he mishit the 8-ball. Alcano cleaned up to take an 11-9 lead and stretched this to 14-11 until Orcollo took the next two racks, 14-13.

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Dolphins battle Lions as NCAA cage wars begin

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
2 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—SSC vs Mapua (Srs)
7:30 p.m.—JRU vs St. Benilde (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Christian University Dolphins have spent barely three months with their new coach. Yet the defending champions believe they're all set when the 81st season of the National Collegiate Athletic Association fires off today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"The players have accepted me wholeheartedly, so we'll still be there," said Dolphins coach Junel Baculi, who replaced Ato Tolentino in early April.

The Dolphins will open their title defense against the San Beda Lions at 2 p.m., following the 1 p.m. opening ceremonies.

"We have an intact lineup," said Baculi. "We know we're the target, but we're out to prove that we can win back-to-back."

The University of Perpetual Help Altas, swept by PCU in last year's best-of-three finals series, will battle the Letran Knights at 4 p.m.

The San Sebastian Stags will take on the Mapua Cardinals at 4 p.m., while the Jose Rizal Bombers and the St. Benilde Blazers will wrap up the heavy four-game bill at 7:30 p.m.

Gabby Espinas, who made league history by winning the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year awards last year, keyed the Dolphins' amazing turnaround from cellar dwellers to champions.

Finals MVP Robert Sanz, guard Jason Castro and Most Improved Player Ian Garrido also provided big numbers as the Dolphins captured their first title since joining the league in 1996.

It was also a breakthrough season for the San Beda Lions, who made their first Final Four appearance in seven years. But coach Nash Racela would like to keep things in proper perspective this time.

"We lost five of our seniors, so this is a very young team," he said. "It depends on how we mature as a team."

San Beda lost its main men Arjun Cordero and Jeff Bombeo, but enlisted the best players of its champion junior team—2004 MVP Rogemar Menor and 2003 MVP Jay-R Taganas.

Letran, meanwhile, will be missing Ronjay Enrile after the ace guard decided to focus on his studies this year.

"All the teams beefed up, so we just have to play hard every time," said Knights coach Louie Alas, who will be turning to big man Mark Andaya, Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban.

Perpetual, too, will be adjusting without league top scorer Noy Javier, leaving Vladimir Joe and Khiel Misa to carry the offense.

Expecting a big boost are last-placers St. Benilde Blazers, who signed up PBL champion coach Caloy Garcia. Their core players—Paolo Orbeta, Jay Sagad and Carlo Manding—will also be banking on their PBL experience.

Trade team riders test SEAG foes in East Java

THE PAGCOR Casino Filipino Trade Team gets to test the Southeast Asian Games opposition when it competes in the Tour de East Java cycling classic on Monday in Sidoarjo, East Java.

The RP-Pagcor riders will be pitted against the national teams of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, which will be among the 12 foreign squads and eight regional entries vying in the five-day, 846.8-kilometer bikefest along the steep and heavily forested mountains of the Indonesian province.

Seasoned veteran Victor Espiritu, the 1996 Marlboro Tour champion, banners the crack squad which also has 2004 Tour Pilipinas champion Rhyan Tanguilig, Albert Primero, Roland Gorantes, Merculio Ramos and Sherwin Carrera.

The RP cyclists leave for the Tour de East Java on Sunday.

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Upsets rock Wimbledon

Grass greenhorn Nadal, Brit hope Henman bow out

AP MARIA Sharapova celebrates her victory against Sesil Karatancheva.

WIMBLEDON, England—Green on grass, Rafael Nadal stumbled Thursday at Wimbledon.

The French Open champion converted only one of 13 break-point chances and lost in the second round to unseeded Gilles Muller, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal, 19, had said he was too inexperienced on grass courts to win Wimbledon this year, and missed opportunities doomed him against Muller.

"He played better than me," Nadal said. "I am playing good on grass. But (against) any player, when he serves good all match, it's difficult. And Muller served at a very good level all the time. It's not easy."

Nadal was eliminated two days after French Open women's champion Justine Henin-Hardenne lost in the first round.

Also ousted was Tim Henman of Britain, who failed to make it into the second week of the tournament for the first time since 1995. Henman lost to Dmitry Tursunov, 3-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 8-6.

Easing the anguish of fans was an upset win by Andrew Murray, an 18-year-old Scotsman ranked 312th. The last Brit in the tournament, male or female, Murray beat No. 14-seeded Radek Stepanek, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

"I didn't really expect to win at all," Murray said. "He's a lot better than me."

No British man has won Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936.

No. 2 Andy Roddick led Daniele Bracciali, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (3), when their match was suspended until Friday because of darkness.

On the women's side, the Williams sisters advanced to the third round. Fourth-seeded Serena dropped the first set for the second match in a row but rallied to beat qualifier Mara Santangelo, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. No. 14 Venus defeated Nicole Pratt, 7-5, 6-3.

The sisters, both two-time champions, could meet in the fourth round.

"We always motivate each other to be our best," Venus said. "In the end we just want equal for each other, or maybe more for each other."

French Open runner-up Mary Pierce saved a match point with an ace and beat qualifier Julia Vakulenko, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 9-7.

Defending Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova won the first nine games, lost just four points in the second set and beat 15-year-old Sesil Karatantcheva, 6-0, 6-1.

Nadal, playing his sixth career match on grass, hit 11 aces, lost his serve just three times and had 37 winners to only 21 unforced errors. But as often happens in lawn tennis, the match came down to a handful of key points, and the Spaniard lost them.

In the pivotal third set, Nadal dropped his serve at love when he double-faulted to fall behind, 5-3. Muller served out the set, then broke again for a 3-2 lead in the fourth set and held serve the rest of the way to win the duel of left-handers.

The last man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year remains Bjorn Borg in 1980.

"Maybe Nadal is never going to win Wimbledon," said Muller, ranked 69th. "He is not playing serve-and-volley, so I think it's tough for him to win Wimbledon."

But Nadal said he has high hopes for the future.

"When I improve my serve, I can win a lot of matches here," Nadal said. "Sometimes I'm a little bit nervous when I serve because I know if I don't win the game, I can lose the set. This is what happens on grass."

While the fourth-seeded Nadal was sidelined, another promising 19-year-old player advanced. No. 27 Richard Gasquet of France hit 18 aces and beat qualifier Gilles Elseneer, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3), 6-7 (3), 6-2.

French compatriot Sebastien Grosjean, a semifinalist the past two years, beat Victor Hanescu, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Only minutes after Nadal was eliminated, Tursunov finished off Henman.

The sixth-seeded Henman had the partisan crowd on Centre Court in a frenzy when he overcame two match points and broke for 5-all in the final set. But he was broken to fall behind 7-6, and this time Tursunov served out the match, belting his 20th ace on the final point.

"I've certainly won my fair share of matches like that in that environment, and I got myself back into it," Henman said.

"To not be able to finish that off and not come out of that with a win is disappointing."

The upset wasn't the first at Wimbledon for Tursunov, ranked 152nd. He won his tournament debut last year by beating Marat Safin.

Sharapova hardly breaks sweat vs rival Karatantcheva

WIMBLEDON, England—Sesil Karatantcheva promised she would beat Maria Sharapova the first time they played last year.

She didn't.

On Thursday, the outspoken 15-year-old from Bulgaria lost again to Sharapova, this time, 6-0, 6-1, in the second round at Wimbledon.

"I knew it was going to be an easy match," said Sharapova, the defending champion, who is now 3-0 against her rival. "Even though I was down 15-40 in the first game, I was still mentally really tough. I just played great tennis today."

It was at least good enough to limit Karatantcheva to only one more break point in the 46-minute match.

"I'm not sure I was ready for such a good opponent in such a little time on grass," Karatantcheva said. "I just kind of lost more games than I usually do. I'm sure for next year I'm going to be more prepared."

Sharapova beat Karatantcheva, 6-3, 6-1, in the first round at the Australian Open this year, and won, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, at Indian Wells, California, in March 2004.

It was before that first meeting that Karatantcheva said she would "kick her (butt) off."

"Although I'm 15, I want to get respect because I am playing the same tournaments," Karatantcheva said.

"Once I got to Indian Wells, I wasn't really keeping my mouth shut. Whatever I felt, I just took it all out. I said what I had to say, I felt better afterwards," she added.

The comment doesn't seem to have bothered Sharapova.

"That was a long time ago. She's grown up a lot since then," Sharapova said. "It doesn't matter what happens off the court."

What happened on the court wasn't pretty.

The second-seeded Russian had only eight unforced errors and won 56 of the 76 points, and Karatantcheva smiled sheepishly when she won her only game and got a wild ovation from the crowd.

"The first thing I thought was 'Oh, that's so nice.' The next was 'These people paid so much money to be here today. Is that all I'm going to give them? 50 unforced errors? Please, give me a break,'" she said.

The Bulgarian did back up her game at the French Open last month, upsetting four-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams before reaching the quarterfinals.

Next up for Sharapova will be Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia, who topped Cho Yoon-jeong of South Korea, 7-5, 6-4. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, June 25, 2005

BANNED FILM FINALLY ON TV!
SAKADA the film that was pulled out of theatres during Martial Law can now be shown on TV! With exclusive interviews with Bembol Roco, Rosa Rosal, Robert Arevalo and director Behn Cervantes!
ABC
SATURDAY 10:30PM

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig: The Hidden Files		My Juan And Only		Qutron Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Kapamilya Movie Sabado			Kontrobersyal (11.45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Anime Ring Kasho				Islamusik		Mr. Fighting		Club TV		Wow Maling Mali		Maverick & Ariel	Haman		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9				Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Darkness Falls				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Navy Medicine At War	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		Shakey's V-League				Bitag		In This Corner			
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous/Ned/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Drake & Josh				Kids Choice Awards			The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Mobile MYX Top Picks	Club MYX	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One	All My Life				Pusoy Dos				My Movie				Sa Bawat Tunog Ng Kampana				Bayaning 3rd World		
Studio 23								Sports TV		Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Presents				Real Deal
AXN								Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz					CSI: NY (Season I)					
Star World		Totally Outrageous Behavior	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		Lie Detector		Cops		The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite		Great White, Deep Trouble		Pharaoh's Week													
Solar Sports														NBA TV Daily	WNBA Game				NBA Jam
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Dale Pinto	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO			Grind (3:45PM)				Six: The Mark Unleashed			Top Gun (7:15PM)				The Big Bounce			Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines		
Star Movies		Shanghai Knights				When Harry Met Sally (5.15 PM)				Ever After: A Cinderella Story				Drumline				The Gathering	
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Scooby Doo & The Boo Brothers				Gransazer #1	Batman The Animated Series	Justice League	Fantastic Four	Swat Kats
ESPN					Women's Pro Billiards		U.S. Open Golf C'ship		In The Driver's Seat	Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Motorsport Asia	Major League Baseball				
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Finding Nemo				That's So Raven	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Even Stevens Movie	
Cinemax	Fierce Creatures (2.45 PM)			Sherlock (4.15 PM)			Beverly Hills Cop (5.45 PM)				Tough Luck			Reality Bites			Deep Evil (10.40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Robin Cook's Acceptable Risk				A Time To Remember				Virtual Mom				The Baby Dance			Out Of The Woods		
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Superstructures		I Survived: Freefall		First Time Film Makers		Wild Discovery		Crossings: Ju Ming		The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		True Horror	
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever Things	Making the Video: Don't Phunk with My Honey	MTV Urban Beats	Dismissed	Room Raiders	Taildaters	One Bad Trip	Punk'D	MTV Hits						MTV Live Pearl Jam at Madison Square Garden (Part 1)	
Sports Plus					Golf Hawaii 2004	This Is The PGA Tour		Raceworld		BD 13 South Beach	Nopi Tunervursion	World's Greatest Auto Shows		The Search TV	Get A Grip On Golf	Barclays Classic			

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

THE PEOPLE'S MVP

Ginobili caps dream season with a trophy

SAN ANTONIO—Manu Ginobili had the ball in his hands on nearly every possession late in the San Antonio Spurs' biggest game of the season—and he didn't drop it once.

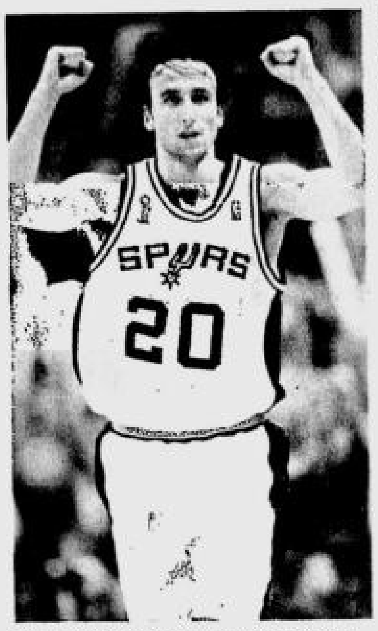
The freewheeling forward from Bahia Blanca, Argentina, capped an amazing five-year run at almost every level of elite basketball with an outstanding performance in the fourth quarter of Game 7 of the NBA Finals on Thursday.

Ginobili scored 23 points in the San Antonio Spurs' 81-74 victory, ending his breakthrough playoff series with another impressive game. He scored 11 points in the fourth period, including six in the final minute, and didn't make a turnover as the Spurs held off one last charge by the Detroit Pistons.

"I really didn't feel it that much," Ginobili said of the fourth-quarter pressure. "I was so focused and concentrated on trying to do the right thing that I didn't even know what was going on around me. I just looked at the clock and tried to make the right decision."

At the final buzzer, all the Spurs seemed to be trying to hug Ginobili, who raced across the court and pointed at his family in the stands. He averaged 18.7 points per game in the series, and the few basketball fans who didn't know his scintillating game got a look at Ginobili's best.

Though Tim Duncan was voted the series Most Valuable Player, there was little doubt Ginobili was the people's choice. The San Antonio crowd chanted "Manu! Manu!" when NBA commissioner David Stern prepared to present the trophy, and there was scattered booing when Duncan's name was about to be announced.



SAN ANTONIO Spurs guard Manu Ginobili celebrates a crucial three-pointer against the Detroit Pistons. Ginobili has proved to be a winner everywhere he goes, and this year was no different in San Antonio. REUTERS

"They are kissing each other," he said gesturing toward his family in the stands. "I'd definitely like to be hugging them, too."

Ginobili has done little wrong in his sport since 2001, when he won the first of two straight championships in the top Italian league. He won his first NBA title as a rookie reserve with the Spurs in 2003.

He then led Argentina to a gold medal in the Athens Olympics, forever endearing himself to his nation—and every nation whose fans disliked the American dominance of the event.

With the Spurs nursing a lead in the final minutes of the NBA season, Ginobili clearly wasn't intimidated by the stage. With the shot clock winding down with 2:57 to play, he hit a 3-pointer from the right wing and ran back upcourt with both fists clenched.

The crowd exploded when Ginobili scored on a driving layup with 35 seconds left. He then hit two free throws with 22 seconds left, earning a big hug from Tim Duncan—and two more with 7 seconds to play.

When the buzzer sounded and confetti fell, reserve Sean Marks picked up Ginobili in a reverse bear hug, and he flailed his arms and legs with childlike excitement.

The fans simply love Ginobili, who has become a particular favorite among the vast Hispanic and Latino communities of San Antonio.

"We need that energy that the crowd gives us," he said.

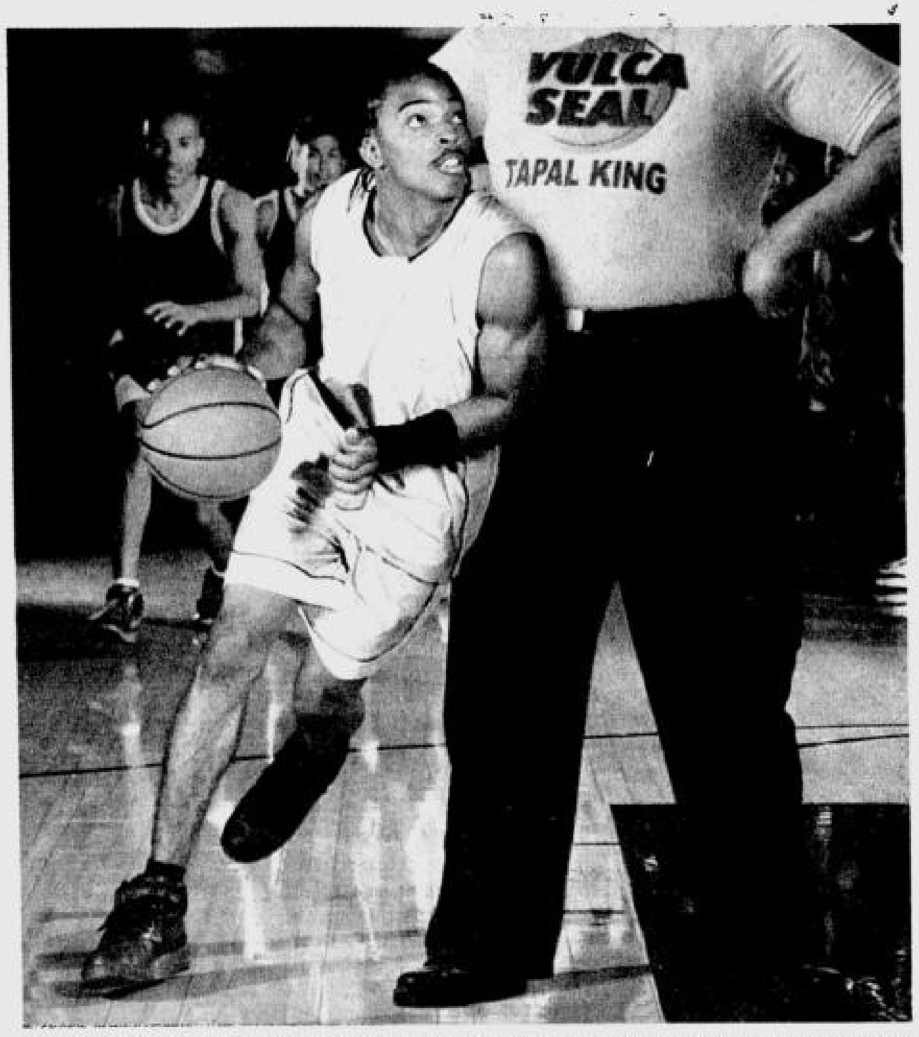
Ginobili is more than a heartthrob. He's a leading icon of Stern's urgent move to globalize the league. With his good looks, flashy game and flashier jewelry, it won't be surprising if Ginobili soon is among the most recognized athletes in the world.

Ginobili put on a show in the first two games of the finals, scoring 53 points and wowing the crowd with countless daredevil drives.

But the Pistons wised up when the series moved back to the Detroit suburbs, using several defenders to limit his charges to the basket. Ginobili also bruised his leg early in Game 3, and though he claimed the injury wouldn't limit him, he wasn't the same player in the middle three games.

Ginobili was revived back at home in Game 6 with 21 points and 10 rebounds, also playing superb defense.

"I think we did a whole lot better (in Game 7)," Ginobili said with a grin. *AP*



FLAWLESS DEFENSE by Tapal King, as he gets in the way of notorious cager Mar Rumi's attempt at forcing a fastbreak. Sa Super Vulcaseal, walang makakalusot.

SUPER VULCASEAL IS THE NO.1 ELASTOMERIC SEALANT.

Annika battles Open nerves; Jenny 3 off

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado—Annika Sorenstam showed a human side to her machinelike march toward the Grand Slam, taking a deep breath of the mile-high air Thursday morning to help steady herself at the US Women's Open.

She doesn't get nervous very often. Rarer still is when she misses the fairway.

Sorenstam started with a bogey from the rough and ended the first round with a three-putt bogey from just off the green. Along the way, she conquered her nerves and broke even with tough Cherry Hills, finishing with an even-par 71 that left her two shots behind Angela Stanford and Duke sophomore Brittany Lang.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales fired a one-over 72 to stay within three shots of the lead.

Lang, expected to turn pro later this summer, had a chance for the outright lead until her approach on the 459-yard 18th hole clanged off the grandstand. She chipped to 30 feet and made bogey.

STANFORD: Two-shot lead REUTERS

Even with a peaceful view of the snow-capped Rockies on the horizon, Sorenstam felt the pressure of trying to become the first player to capture the first three legs of the professional Grand Slam.

Karine Icher of France was at 2 under with four holes left when play was suspended by storms in the area.

Michelle Wie, the 15-year-old from Hawaii who was second behind Sorenstam at the LPGA Championship, again put herself near the top of the leaderboard with back-to-back birdies on the back nine, starting with a 20-footer on the par-3 12th. She was at 1 under with three holes to play. *AP*

BLAST

Jim Furyk hits out of a sand trap on the 16th hole during the first round of the Barclays Classic at the Westchester Country Club in Harrison, N.Y. Furyk fired a 65 for a three-shot lead. AP

Duncan, Ginobili . . .

From page A25

grow, and we're going to continue to grow around him."

Behind Duncan, the stoic established star, and Ginobili, the flashy young Argentine who won an Olympic gold medal in Athens, the Spurs celebrated on their home court with silver and black confetti streaming down from the rafters.

"We just played a great team. I don't know how the hell we did it, but I am thrilled," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said after embracing good friend Larry Brown as the game ended. Popovich became the third coach with three titles, while the Detroit coach headed into an uncertain future.

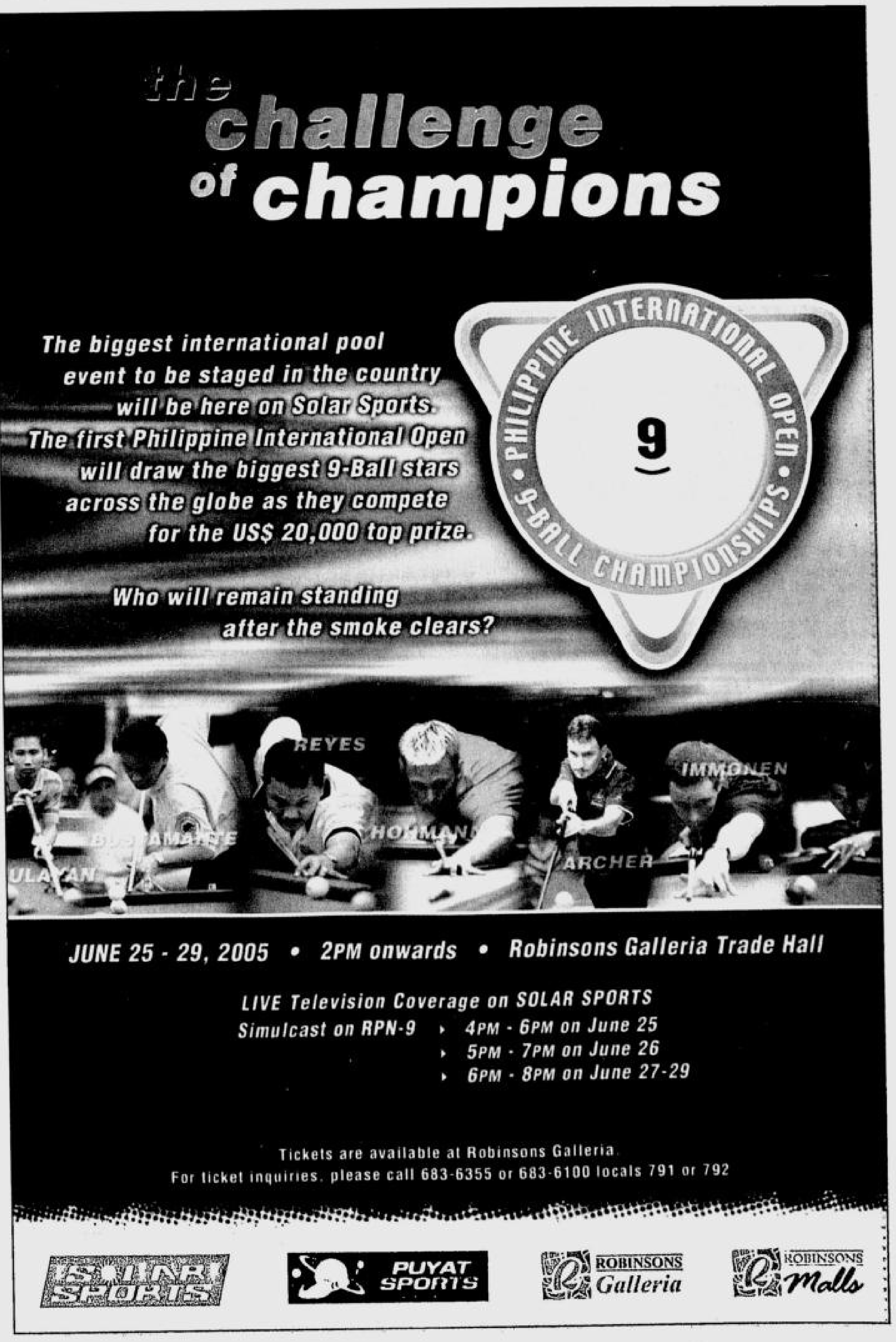
"I'm just as proud this year as I was last year," Brown said.

The Pistons recovered from two early blowout losses, won twice and then split the next two games before Duncan and the Spurs reasserted themselves in the end.

The NBA had waited a long time for a game with so much at stake and so little room for error. And the difference came in the fourth quarter, when the Spurs were able to make the plays the Pistons couldn't.

Midway through the period, Ginobili assisted on a 3-pointer by Robert Horry and Duncan found Bruce Bowen alone outside the arc for another 3 that put San Antonio ahead 67-61. Detroit pulled within four before the Duncan-Ginobili combo clicked perfectly on two straight possessions.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling," Ginobili said. *AP*



the challenge of champions

The biggest international pool event to be staged in the country will be here on Solar Sports. The first Philippine International Open will draw the biggest 9-Ball stars across the globe as they compete for the US$ 20,000 top prize.

Who will remain standing after the smoke clears?

JUNE 25 - 29, 2005 • 2PM onwards • Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall

LIVE Television Coverage on SOLAR SPORTS
Simulcast on RPN-9
- 4PM - 6PM on June 25
- 5PM - 7PM on June 26
- 6PM - 8PM on June 27-29

Tickets are available at Robinsons Galleria.
For ticket inquiries, please call 683-6355 or 683-6100 locals 791 or 792

Gonzales prevails; Antonio protests

ANTONIO

PDI PHOTOS

GONZALES

INTERNATIONAL Master Jayson Gonzales won by default over brother-in-law Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales in the first round of the Men's Standard Chess Finals yesterday, triggering a howl of protests from other contenders at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

When Sales showed up before the start of the second round in the afternoon, some finalists cried foul.

"Unfair *sa amin 'yun dahil lahat kami naghirap tapos* may fixed *na laro* (It's unfair for us because we strived hard, and yet there's a fixed game)," said Grandmaster Joey Antonio, the most vocal among the protesters.

Antonio labored hard with white before settling for a draw with IM Richard Bitoon in 123 moves of a Sicilian.

Sales cited loose bowel movement as the culprit for his non-appearance in the morning round.

Tournament director Willie Abalos asked Antonio and company to file a formal protest.

The threat of protest irritated Gonzales. "*Kung gusto nila ulitin 'yung laban namin ni* Sales," said Gonzales, the country's top scorer in last year's Chess Olympiad. "OK *lang kahit na ako ang matalo* (If they want we will repeat our game. It's OK even if I lose.)"

The Gonzales-Sales match produced the only decisive result in the opener of the trouble-laden qualifier for the men's national standard chess team.

Its first three rounds were actually over, but had to restart from scratch due to controversies that arose from the late arrival of Antonio and fellow GM Nelson Mariano II from a US tournament.

IM Ronald Dableo and FM Fernie Donguines drew after 34 moves of an English Opening; Mariano and FM Oliver Dimakiling drew after 15 moves of a Ruy Lopez, and NMs Oliver Barbosa and Julius Joseph de Ramos drew in 15 moves of a French. IM Mark Paragua took a bye.

SPORTSWATCH

Shell active chess gets going at SM Manila

THE SHELL National Youth Active Chess Championships (SNYACC) kicks off its eight-leg series spread over eight regions with the NCR (National Capital Region) qualifiers at SM Manila today. Some 500 students and out-of-school youths are vying for honors in the kiddies (14 years and below) and juniors (20 and below) divisions of the annual event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell. Other backers of the event are Accel, Shell Better Mileage Gasolines, Shellane in cooperation with SM Supermalls, Gaisano Mall (Davao City) and Lim Ketkai Mall (Cagayan de Oro City). Baguio will host the second leg on July 9-10 at SM-Baguio while Tuguegarao will stage the other Northern Luzon elims on July 23-24 at the People's Gymnasium. The Southern Luzon elims will be held in Batangas on Aug. 6-7 for the fourth leg while action shifts to Cebu on Aug. 20-21 at SM-Cebu. Iloilo takes its turn on Sept. 3-4 for the sixth leg. Davao and Cagayan de Oro will stage the last two legs on Sept. 17-18 and Oct. 1-2, respectively. The top three finishers in each leg will advance to the grand finals slated Oct. 15-16 at SM City North Edsa.

Spanish booters to train Aurora youth

THE SPANISH region of Andalusia has agreed to support a football training program for the youth of Aurora province where some 50 Spanish soldiers—many of them from Andalusia—made their last stand for Spain in the Philippine-Spanish War. The football training for the children of school age in Aurora will be conducted by a six-member football delegation from the region which is scheduled to arrive in the country today, said Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, a native of Aurora, who has been helping in the promotion of grassroots sports training programs for his province. Aurora Cosana Prieto, Francisco Lopez Servio, Cipriano Romero Cerezo, Jose Ignacio Bidon, Miguel Espina Martin and Exequiel Sabarillo make up the delegation from Andalusia. Angara said the Spaniards hope to turn out competitive football players for Aurora, which he described as an ideal training ground for young men interested in soccer.

Aventajado keynotes IOC anniversary bash

CHAIR Robert Aventajado of the Philippine Olympic Committee will keynote the celebration of the 111th anniversary of the International Olympic Committee on Sunday's Olympic Day Run at Baywalk Park, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Ambassador Preciosa S. Soliven, secretary general of Unesco Commission of the Philippines, will read the joint message of Kofi Annan, secretary general of the United Nations, and Dr. Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, on the occasion of the Olympic Day Run and the commemoration of the International Year of Sports and Physical Education. Steve Hontiveros, POC secretary general, and Richie Garcia, Philippine Sports Commissioner in charge of NSA affairs, will welcome the participants and guests. McDonalds is the worldwide partner of the IOC for the ODR and PSC, which is fielding the most number of runners at 100, is the POC partner. Feati University, aside from providing its 45-man band, has entered 47 runners. The Philab band will also perform. Prizes of P5,000, P3,000 and P2,000 await the top 3 male and top 3 female finishers, respectively, in the 10-K out-and-back race with the top 3 in each of the 11 age-groups getting P500, P300 and P200, respectively. The grand champion in the 3-K fun run cum slogan contest receives P5,000 and a finely crafted trophy with a figure of an eagle, the 23rd SEA Games mascot. The top three groups in each of the four categories will also bag trophies. All participants will bring home ODR commemorative T-shirts and certificates of participation signed by Rogge.

Pagcor supports Roligon 6-cocker

PAGCOR-AIRPORT Casino Filipino is the latest backer and major sponsor of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan 6-Cock Derby which is set July 4, 6, 8, 11 and 13. This event will be hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon and stakes a whopping P3 million. Each participant will receive P2,000 casino chips and cards from Airport Casino Filipino. The first-round eliminations (2-cock) on July 4 will start at 2 p.m. featuring more than 100 fights. Submission of weights is on July 3, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Reservation of cockhouses is still open. For inquiries, contact Roligon's new numbers: 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812. A five-door Pajero (turbo diesel automatic), now on display at the Roligon lobby, will go to the fastest win champion.

Las Piñas derby slates 72 fights

COCKERS and breeders of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas will field their remaining ace gamebirds today in Las Piñas Coliseum's special 3-cock derby that will feature 72 fights. This event will be hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar and LPC manager Alex Tobias. Heading the roster of participants are Boy de Roca, Cito Manansala, Butchoy Olano, Lito Roque, Jenjen Arayata, Emil Chua, Gerry Ramos, Wewe Burgos, Strike Revilla, Narding Sarao, Boy de Roca, Pepito Ngo, Eric dela Rosa, Johnny Elorde, Cito Zamesa, Riverhead Group and Jover Dilao. The LPC management also announced the staging of it's annual "Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby" on Aug. 25 and 27 with Mayor Nene Aguilar as host. Entry fee is P15,000. The stagfest, which dangles a prize of P1 million, is traditionally the starter of the stag-fighting season and draws popular breeders from groups like NCA, GCAP, Balbina, NGBA, GF-BAN, LGBA and BBC. For details, contact 8731040, 8743910 and 0926-7450375 (look for Julius).

Santa Ana Fastest Win Ulutan starts

SANTA Ana Cockpit's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan," with P340,000 in total prizes, starts at 7 a.m. today. Entry fee is P1,500. "The event will be staged until midnight to accommodate all the participants," pit manager Gerald Go said. Early birds will get the following bonus: one 14-inch color TV each for the first ten winners; mountain bike for 11th to 20th winners. Likewise, the last ten winners will get a 14-inch color TV. The grand champion gets P68,000; second, P35,000; third, P20,000; fourth, P10,000 plus refrigerator and fifth, P10,000 plus color TV. Hosts are Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who lined up another Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan at Pasig Square Garden on July 5. For inquiries, contact 8983474 and 8983475 or 0921-5191962 (Aba).

Paneda Group dominates World Slasher

MJ Golden Circle-Happy Birthday finished with 7.5 points to rule the just-concluded 2005 World Slasher Cup 8-Cock Invitational Derby sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds. Owned by the group of lawyer Agustine Paneda with handler Allan Ramos, assistant handler Walter de la Torre and gaffer Abel Senarosa, MJ Golden Circle-Happy Birthday's victory was dedicated to Paneda's granddaughter. Former champions also fared well with Rey Briones (Gold Spartans-Pichay) posting 7 points for solo second, William Go (DTR Mapalad-Gold Cup) notching 6.5 points and BM Bulalayaw RB II of Boy Marzo & Rod Barro tallying 6 points.

Sison Pintakasi ng Calamba champion

BARANGAY Camaligan chair Jerry Sison, unleashing aces from Dong Lacson's Assassin Gamefarm in Iloilo City, won the championship in the recent Pintakasi ng Calamba held at the Calamba City Complex in Barangay Halang. The Assassin roosters composed of reds and greys were of DL Yellow-legged McLean, Hot Leg, DL Yellow-legged Greys and the 8X lines. Sison's Mack & Joshua entry won over 46 competitors from Laguna and Batangas who were invited by hosts Myrna "Baby" Pinon and Ronald Navarro. Mack & Joshua's fighters were trained and conditioned by Nelson Tedranes, while Joel Rabelas was the official gaffer.

Tigress Pimentel: The bold and the beautiful

ROXANNE Pimentel hopes to lead UST to the fulfillment of a very bold prediction.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROXANNE Pimentel is turning things around in the volleyball court with as much ease as she turns heads on the street.

The 6-foot attacker has been imposing her height and might in the ongoing Shakey's V-League first conference, triggering the upsurge of the University of Santo Tomas in the semifinals and leading the Tigresses to a spotless record there.

And she doesn't think UST will stop there, boldly predicting a championship for the Tigresses.

"Of course, there's no question about that (UST winning the title)," said the 30-year-old looker who graduated with a degree in business administration from UST in 1998. "I think everything is falling into place for UST right now."

The Tigresses hardly looked like contenders early in the elimination round. But key players getting back to form has given Pimentel the confidence to talk about wresting the title from current holder De La Salle University.

Pimentel counts as a huge factor the comeback of Joyce Pano, the Tigresses' all-around scorer who briefly took a leave after her father died. Joan Botor-Carpio, Pimentel's trusted partner back in their UAAP days, is also making a smooth transition from spiker to setter according to coach Augusto Santamaria's game plan.

Pimentel, Pano and Carpio are the UST's reinforcements in this tournament, acting as the pillars in the Tigresses' campaign. With the trio showing the way, UST is now the semifinal leader after finishing the eliminations at 7-3 behind La Salle's league-best 8-2 record.

Of the three, though, UST has ridden Pimentel the most. She is the team captain and presently the best scorer for the Tigresses. During the eliminations, she showed her dominance by scattering 26 points, 18 of them coming by way of kills, to lead UST over defending champion La Salle, 28-26, 25-22, 15-25, 25-21.

PIMENTEL soars for a block.

She also commands a lot of respect from her teammates.

"Maybe because I'm the most senior here," said Pimentel.

That, and she does deserve every drop of respect that falls her way. Pimentel steered UST to back-to-back UAAP crowns in 1996 and 1997 where she was hailed the Most Valuable Player.

She was also part of the national teams since the 1997 Southeast Asian Games and won bronze medals in the 2001 and 2003 SEAGs.

Pimentel also spends her time serving the Philippine Air Force as Air Woman First Class aside from training for the coming SEA Games this November.

But before suiting up for the country anew, there's this Shakey's prediction of hers she needs to fulfill.

V-League 2nd-round semis blasts off today

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—La Salle vs San Sebastian
5 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs Ateneo

THE TIGHT race for the Shakey's V-League crown resumes when the second semifinal round kicks off today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

University of Santo Tomas, La Salle and Ateneo enjoy a good view of the title with their 2-win, 1-loss cards, while San Sebastian College is virtually out of sight at 0-3.

Fresh from a 25-18, 25-19, 29-27 victory over arch rival Santo Tomas on Thursday, La Salle hopes to stretch its two-game winning run when it tackles San Sebastian in the 3 p.m. opener.

Ateneo and Santo Tomas part ways at 5 p.m., with the Tigresses hoping to sustain the momentum of their second elimination-round and first semifinal-round victories over the Lady Eagles. Ateneo took their opening-day meeting.

Tigresses twin towers Roxanne Pimentel and Mary Jean Balse look to lead UST past the Lady Eagles led by the veteran troika of Amelia Guanco, Michelle Laborte and Cecile Tabuena.

La Salle, backstopped by Michelle Carolino and Maureen Penetrante, is back in fighting form after suffering a slump due to lineup problems in the latter part of the eliminations.

With hotshot setter Reina Ferina Saet fully recovered from a bout with flu, the Lady Archers are steadily strengthening their title-retention bid.

"We will still need more training to prepare for the games ahead," La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus said. "But I believe we got our game back."

Tournament surprise package San Sebastian will lean on Cherry Rose Macatangay, who posted a record 28 points against Ateneo last Thursday, to keep its title hopes alive in the two-year league. *Karla Tricia V. Magno*

Parfan rules Nat'l dartfest

TWO-TIME World Cupper Boie Parfan emerged champion in the recent 38th Araw ng Agusan del Norte P400,000 National Darts Classic at the provincial capitol of Cabadbaran.

Parfan, representing Robson, beat Silay City native Rommel Bagotayao, 6-3, in the finals of the Open Singles event that attracted 137 entries, including a delegation from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

En route to the title and the P100,000 that goes with it, Parfan beat visiting Saleh Alqubaisi, 4-0, Mon Oliveros, 4-1, Asia Pacific Cupper Lourence Ilagan, 5-0, and Dodong Nollora, 5-2, in the semifinal round.

In the women's singles, former national champion and World and Asia Pacific Cupper Jan-jan Hinojales of Robson-Davao defeated 19-year-old An-an Awitan of Robson-CDO, 5-4, for the title.

In the Youth Singles, 16-year-old Sherwin Diaz of Tagum Optimate Darters Organization crushed 15-year-old Kokong Ponferrada of Cagayan de Oro, 3-0, to win the crown.

Team La Tondeña-CDO, composed of Bert Lozano, Henry Rivera, Lino Galgo, and Boy Momo, edged Team Butuan III of Dodong Nollora, Vic Castanares, Mario Saclet, and Orlando Navarro, 4-3, in the Fixed Four Person national championship.

Champions in the Classified Draw Doubles were Joe Plaza of Agnor Capitol Dart Club and Aries Quijano of GMC-CDO. Glen Espargoza of RPG Darts-Panabo, Eric Penaranda of Iligan and Mon Oliveros copped the Classified Draw Triples crown.

Agusan del Norte Gov. John Eripe Amante announced an even bigger P500,000 Araw ng Agusan del Norte darts tournament next year.

Magallanes bets top central meet

MAGALLANES followed up its first-round romp in the Nokia intervillage golf series with a steady 300-point output in the final 18 holes for a 6-point victory over Hillsborough at the close of the central sector tournament at the Manila Golf Club Monday.

Single handicapper Brixton Aw (5) took charge for Magallanes for the second straight time, firing 39 points, which Noel Legaspi matched. Joseph Alviar, Boy Tolentino and Tino Tolentino came up with 38s as the team pooled a 606 counting its 306 in the first round at the Riviera.

Hillsborough produced the day's best score of 301, powered by Rene Cuchon and King Rodrigo's 39s, but the team could just slash one point from Magallanes' lead and settled for second with 600.

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West Bound Gran Copa show stealer

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

WEST Bound (5) gets back at Empire King (right) with a vengeance.

WEST Bound gained on Empire King's sudden reversal of form and snatched the Division I title of the 2005 Gran Copa de Manila Stakes race yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Instead of having the 2004 Horse of the Year as his rival down the stretch, West Bound found an unlikely foe in Cool Runnings before eventually winning behind the superb guidance of Jonathan Hernandez.

"*Inaabangan ko si* Empire King, *pero wala pa sa* last 75 meters *kaya alam ko amin na* (I'm waiting for Empire King but he was nowhere to be found in the last 75 meters so I knew the win was ours)," said Hernandez, himself surprised by the top choice's dismal showing.

West Bound finished the rarely used 1,750-meter distance a full length in front of the game Cool Runnings, with Empire King arriving another length back at third. Free Wind came in fourth and last.

Empire King, who was formidable in his last two outings, apparently labored under the top 57-kilogram top weight and was forced to run along the rail for most of the muddy route. He never sprang to contention even under Antonio Alcasid Jr.'s frantic urgings.

"*Maluwag naman sa loob pero parang bawas siya roon tumakbo at iniinda yung timbang* (He has all the room along the rail but maybe he's not used to running there and the weight bothered him)," added Hernandez, tasked to steer West Bound anew in place of Eldy Salvador.

Thus, West Bound found himself returning to the winner's circle since the Classic Open last December.

The victory, worth P300,000 for owner C&H Enterprises, also ended West Bound's 19-month losing slump at the SLLP where he last won on Nov. 12, 2003 in the Class Division.

The 5-year-old chestnut son of Heza Gone West out of Fair Maiden tackled the Fernando Raquel Jr.-driven Cool Runnings from the far turn before outkicking the latter as Hernandez searched for Empire King and Alcasid over his shoulders.

It was Free Wind who set the early pace but Cool Runnings loomed boldly on the outside. Empire King drew the rail while West Bound just waited for the opportunity to pounce on the leaders.

West Bound, who sold P177,626 as the second choice in the betting, negotiated the race in 1:51 flat (10-24.5-24.5-25-27), matching his fastest over the distance.

Cool Runnings, an entry of the Trillana Stable, got P112,500, while Empire King, the heavy pick with sales of P932,811 out of P1,226,645, settled for P62,500, his explosive form in the Marho Founders' Cup and Binay Cup nowhere to be found.

Earlier, second-favored Glamour ruled Division II under Val Dilema and bagged P180,000 for Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

The 6-year-old imported chestnut mare from New Zealand crossed the line two lengths ahead of Hermie Esguerra's Last Snip, who edged longest shot Hazmagic.

Filipina archers land 5th in world outdoor elims

MADRID—Three Filipino compound bow archers—Amaya Paz, Jennifer D. Chan and Joann C. Tabañag—came up with worthy performances Thursday to advance to the Olympic Round individual and team competitions of the 43rd World Archery Outdoor Championships here.

But Athens Olympics veteran Jasmin Figueroa, Purita Joy Marino and Florante Matan were not as lucky, crashing out in the qualifying phase of the recurve event.

Paz, 19-year-old University of the Philippines scholar, broke two Philippine records en route to a 1358 total and an eight-place finish in the qualification round and, together with Chan and Tabañag, established a new mark on the way to a strong fifth place in the eliminations.

Paz tallied 334 points to erase the 333 mark of Chan in the 70 meters and carded 346 to surpass her 339 standard in the 60m. She also shot 338 and 340 in the 50m and 30m, respectively.

Paz, Chan and Tabañag combined for 4030 points to rank fifth in the team event.

Figueroa, who created a big stir in Athens last year by knocking out former world champion Natalya Valeeva of Italy, carded 1223 to rank 88th while Marino recorded 1167 to land 101st in the women's event. Matan came in 98th in the men's division after submitting 1251.

HOME-AWAY TILT

PCA, Manda netters nail 2 victories each

STANDINGS	W	L
PCA	2	0
Mandaluyong	2	0
Valle Verde	1	1
BF	1	1
Eusebio	0	2
Capitol	0	2

PHILIPPINE Columbian Association (PCA) and Mandaluyong Tennis Club notched two wins each over the weekend at the start of the 1st Prince Home and Away Interclub Team Tennis 2005.

PCA's victories were more impressive as both came at their opponent's homecourts—the Capitol State Tennis Club (6-1) and the Eusebio Tennis Club (5-2).

Mandaluyong won at Valle Verde, 5-2, before defeating BF Homes at home, 4-3.

In other matches, Valle Verde whipped Capitol at home, 6-1, and BF Homes downed Eusebio also at home, 5-2.

The results:

PCA 6, CAPITOL 1—I. Santos/ R. Barte def. J. Benitez/ G. Gatchalian 8-3. J. Kraut/ R. Vilarte def. B.Mamalte/ W. Erap 8-0, Chiu/ M. Sy def. N. Gualda/ M. Veloso 8-2, M. Tan/ M. Co def. D. De Jesus/ J. Fernandez 8-2, A. Chiu/ E. Ocampo def. M. Neri/ C. Hiwatig 8-2, B. Santos/ F. Gomez def. B. Bagaltos/ R. Fabella 8-7, R. Neri/ C. Alo def. S. Garcia/ E. Go 8-7.

MANDALUYONG 5, VALLE VERDE 2—R. Villanueva/ K. Santamaria def. A. Mariano/ N. De Castro 8-4, D. Sta. Cruz/ G. Remegio def. G. Abacan/ J. Cimafranca 8-6, V. Salas/ A. Badillo def. M. Bonoan/ G. Dela Paz 8-7, J. Reyes/ J. Villanueva def. J. Suyosa/ T. Banes 8-7, B. Gregorio/ T. Ramirez def. R. Orsolino/ RT Felix 8-3, R. Cruz/ T. Cruz def. E. Tajonera/ T. Chua 8-5, V. Pena/ E. Grecia def. T. Uy/ S. Ong 8-1.

BF 5, EUSEBIO 2—A. Devera/ A. Lontoc def. J. Mejia/ M. reyes 8-4, J. De Castro/ B. Gregorio def. P. Alina/ J. Lee 8-6, J. Rivera/ L. Devera def. J. Alba/ E. Santos 8-3, H. Romaguera/ R. Tolentino def. P. Lee/ B. Mejico 8-4, J. Suntay/ J. Lober def. E. Sabado/ R. Canlas 8-1, T. Tiangco/ D. Villacarlos def. V. Berame/ N. Noguera 8-1, D. Uy/ C. Araos def. E romero/ J. Maniago. 8-5.

PCA 5, EUSEBIO 2—M. Misa/ S. Lim def. J. De castro/ B. Gregorio 8-4, R. Villarete/ R. Barta 8-3, A. Reyes/ E. Santos def. M. Co/ E. Dionesio 8-4, D. Profeta/ A. Galuz def. H. Romaguera/ R.Tolentino 8-6, B. Santos/ F. Gomez def. R.Canlas/ E. Sabado 8-7, C.Francisco/ E. Reyes def. B. Carluen/ V. Berame 8-0, L. Santos/ .Romero def. S. Garcia/ Sanchez 8-0.

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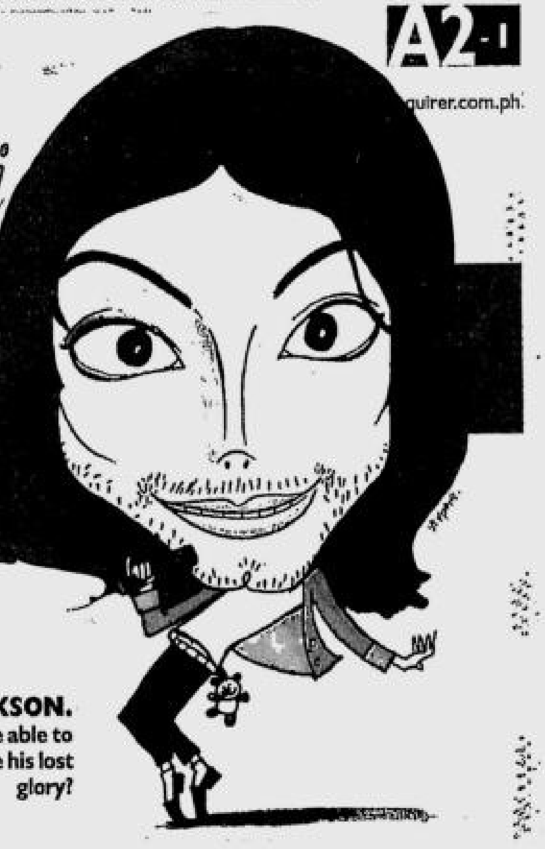
What now, Michael Jackson?



JACKSON. Will he be able to recapture his lost glory?

By Nestor U. Torre

FANS of Michael Jackson heaved a big sigh of relief last week, when the Prince of Pop was found not guilty of the child molestation charges filed against him. Jacko must have felt really happy, too. —A very close shave, that!

However, right after the verdict was handed down, another "trial" was launched in the media, an extensive discussion on Jackson's career prospects after his bruising encounter with the law.

Some show biz observers believe that the singing star's career in the States won't be able to recapture its lost glory during the heady time when his most popular album sold over 20 million copies.

Indeed, even before charges were filed against him, his last album sold only a little over two million copies—a drastic decline in sales that speaks volumes about Jackson's diminished popularity.

Idiosyncratic lifestyle

Some of this isn't due to Jackson's idiosyncratic lifestyle, which perplexes and turns off quite a number of people. A factor beyond his control is the fact that the music world's eternally boyish Peter Pan is actually already in his 40s, which distances him from show biz's predominantly youthful market.

Additional pressure comes from Jackson's financial woes, which threaten to drastically eat into his huge musical capital: the Beatles' catalogue of hit songs. Should that worst-case scenario happen, it could push the singer's fortunes into a tailspin, from which he might not be able to recover.

Performance tour

On the *other* hand, you can bet that Jackson and his handlers aren't about to give up on his stellar career quite so easily. This early, there are plans to reintroduce him by way of a new album and a performance tour of Europe and Asia, where he remains a hot attraction. The income from those career initiatives would sure come in handy in the rehabilitation of Michael's finances.

However, there's an even bigger need for him to rehabilitate his *image*, which has taken a heavy beating of late. Peter Pan as a rumored pedophile? That would never do!

So, we can expect that, after Jackson lies low for a spell to nurse his psychic bruises, his handlers will mount a new campaign to shine up his personal and show biz persona.

Fly in the ointment

Will it work? If memory serves, the biggest fly in the ointment in this regard would be Jackson himself, because his "unusual" behavior often confuses and irritates people who are less than diehard fans of his.

Putting it succinctly, for Jackson to make up for the ground he's lost, he can't stay the strange "boy" he's been for decades, and has to finally, *really* grow up. No more "playing" with juveniles, no more weird capers like dangling his kid from a hotel balcony—get the picture?

Can he manage that difficult psychic transformation? And, can he pull it off *believably*? If he can, he has a chance to rise from the ashes. If he can't, Michael Jackson may be doomed to remain his own worst enemy.

Manila honors Eddie Garcia

By Rica Arevalo

GARCIA. Recipient of Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan award.

IT IS apt that the city government of Manila has bestowed the Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan award for cinema to Eddie Garcia during the city's 434th founding anniversary.

During World War II, Garcia was involved with Philippine scouts in Guam to help the US army fight off Japanese invaders. Upon his return to Manila, he entered show business *via* Manuel Conde's "Siete Infantes de Lara" (Seven Devils). He hasn't left the entertainment industry since.

The Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) Hall of Fame recipient has played countless roles in the past 56 years, but his zest for his craft is still obvious in his performances.

Digital technology

He welcomes the booming digital technology, and even topbills the Cinemalaya entry, "ICU Bed #7."

I first saw Garcia when I was a student in Mark Meily's cinematography class about a decade ago. Meily was directing a beer commercial, and Garcia was his talent.

I was assigned to write down the good takes in the video assist as part of my academic requirement. I never thought that we would work again—this time for my directorial debut in a full-length feature.

When I wrote the script of "ICU" in 2003,

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It all started as a hobby in 1975. Dietitian Corazon Dayro Ong's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit inspired her to prepare food products and sell them to a steady and growing clientele. After 30 years, CDO Karne Norte, CDO Bibbo! Hotdog, CDO Meat Loaf, CDO Hamburger Patties, CDO Holiday Ham are just a few of the named brands manufactured by CDO-Foodsphere, Inc. enjoyed by the Filipino family.

cdo
KARNE NORTE
Pinoy Style

CDO at pamilyang Pilipino, samahang lalong tumatamis

What is sweeter than CDO's 30 years of success is being with Filipino families. But more than the good taste, it is the relationship and the presence in every home that has made Filipino families happy for over three decades. The company is committed to providing an array of food products for the Filipino family through constant market research and product innovation. Aside from this, the various multimedia advertising campaigns showcase themes that appeal to the Filipino consumer's consciousness of shared family values. CDO continues to exceed its own expectations to give the best food product offerings by being the brand of choice for Filipino families and truly trailblazing through its 30th anniversary cheer: "Sumasarap ang Pagsasama".

cdo
Bibbo!
KESOrap Maging Bibbo!

CDO at trade partners, samahang lalong tumitibay

The strong partnership between CDO and its valuable customers is manifested by its sharing of competencies and technologies that cascade to the many facets of the manufacturing and retail food industries. CDO's primary goal is to grow and improve each other's businesses. Wide roster of affordable products, distribution and trade deal programs, and marketing support to help improve business are provided to its trade partners – from distributors, wholesalers, retailers, market stall owners to the most humble sari-sari stores. CDO's valuable business customers also include hotels, restaurants, institutions, canteens, burger stands, among others.

CDO at suppliers, magkasama sa iisang layunin

CDO's relationship with its suppliers is based on mutual trust and openness. Working together to realize opportunities, as well as making strategic and long-term solutions to everyday challenges, reflects such a relationship. There is the fortifying of everyone's participation in the constant development and improvement of standards of materials; thereby, all contributing to better bottom lines in a very fierce and competitive market. Suppliers are not just mere suppliers, they are CDO's business partners as well.

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CDO at empleyado, magkasangga sa hirap at ginhawa

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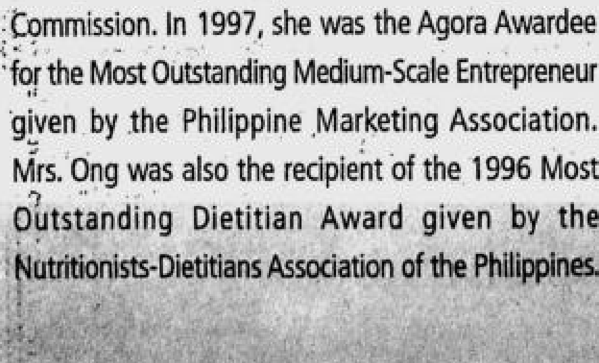

as the Most Outstanding Professional for 1999 in the Field of Dietetics given by the Professional Regulations Commission. In 1997, she was the Agora Awardee for the Most Outstanding Medium-Scale Entrepreneur given by the Philippine Marketing Association. Mrs. Ong was also the recipient of the 1996 Most Outstanding Dietitian Award given by the Nutritionists-Dietitians Association of the Philippines.

Adhikaing panlipunan

Through Odyssey Foundation, Inc., CDO's corporate social responsibility arm, aid and assistance are being extended to its publics. These include nourishment to less fortunate Filipinos, programs for child and youth welfare development, livelihood enhancement, and the promotion of nutrition. Helping alleviate the lives of the poor is a company commitment to give back to the community its three decades of success.

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Awards

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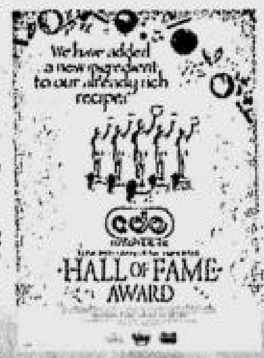
- CDO-Foodsphere was cited Outstanding Karne Norte Manufacturer in 2004 by the Consumers Union of the Philippines.
- CDO-Foodsphere was voted as the Most Outstanding Meat Processing Company for five consecutive years (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003) by the Consumers Union of the Philippines – Hall of Fame Awards.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HALL OF FAME AWARD

- CDO was adjudged 2001 Most Outstanding Meat Processed Brand at the 16th Parangal ng Bayan.

Trade Partner Awards

- 2004 - Yum! Most Improved Supplier Award for Pizza Hut
- 2003 to 2004 - Robinson's Silver Supplier Award
- 2003 - 7-11 Account Management Excellence Award
- 2002 - 7-11 Consistent Excellent Service Award
- 2002 - Yum! Brands' Product Excellence Award
- 2000 to 2003 - SM Most Outstanding Supplier
- 1999 to 2001 - Robinson's Small and Medium Supplier Award
- 1998 - Uniwide Top 10 Trade Partner of the Year Award

Government Awards

- CDO-Foodsphere received 3 HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control) certificates after the NMIC (National Meat Inspection Commission) proclaimed in 2004 three CDO Products (CDO Bibbo! Hotdog, CDO Pizza Hut pork toppings and CDO Pizza Hut beef toppings) as compliant with the standards of the international food safety system.
- CDO-Foodsphere's technoplant was adjudged the Best Meat Processing Plant in the Philippines under the "AAA" category by the Department of Agriculture - National Meat Inspection Commission, the Department of Health, the Department of Environment and National Resources, and the Department of Interior and Local Government for three consecutive years (1999, 2000 & 2001). A grand slam feat for CDO-Foodsphere.

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Sharon sings Ogie's love songs

By Rito P. Asilo

IT has been 27 years since Sharon Cuneta recorded her first single, "Tawag ng Pag-ibig," a sappy but wistfully sung love song. The song wasn't an instant hit—but her next single, Rey Valera's "Mr DJ," catapulted her to teenage superstardom.

Three years later, the sweet, 15-year-old girl from Pasay shot her first glossy film, "Dear Heart," for Sining Silangan, which signaled the emergence of the next movie queen. You know the rest of the story.

Fifty-one films later, Sharon has amassed coveted titles (from Box-Office Queen to Megastar), well-deserved acting trophies, and even a TOYM award.

She may not be as active now as she used to, but Sharon remains bankable and truly influential, a good role model for her fans to emulate!

Heck, even her "Darna" (who appeared as a guest character in 1986's "Captain Barbell," and turned into the *Pinoy* superheroine by spinning *ala* Wonder Woman!) was almost fully clothed!

Throaty theatrics

Her latest album, "Sharon Sings Alcasid," is particularly special because it beautifully showcases Cuneta's thick alto without the throaty theatrics that she's been known to display of late. The local scene may be filled with young upstarts who belt their way to the top, but nobody can sing as soulfully as the Megastar does.

And what better material with which to display this innate honesty and soulfulness initially heard in classics like "Langis at Tubig," "Maging Sino Ka Man," "Pangarap na Bituin" than Ogie Alcasid's hugely popular love songs?

She is at her best when she doesn't force her voice in "Ewan," "Santo Niño," "Parang Baliw," "FM Ka, AM Ako," "Hanggang Kailan, Hanggang Saan" "Kariton" (from "Bukas, Luluhod Ang Mga Tala"), and "Starlight." Sharon fans who are familiar with her discography know what we're talking about.

The 14-track collection boasts of slick, well-produced versions of Alcasid's most popular songs: 12 of them he composed, and two of them (Ito Rapadas' "Sa Kanya" and Aaron Paul del Rosario's "Nandito Ako") he popularized.

Lyrical content

What the album lacks, however, are more distinct, varied grooves. A collection, even if its cuts are sleekly produced and sung, may tend to sound dour when the collective sentiment and lyrical content of the tunes are similar.

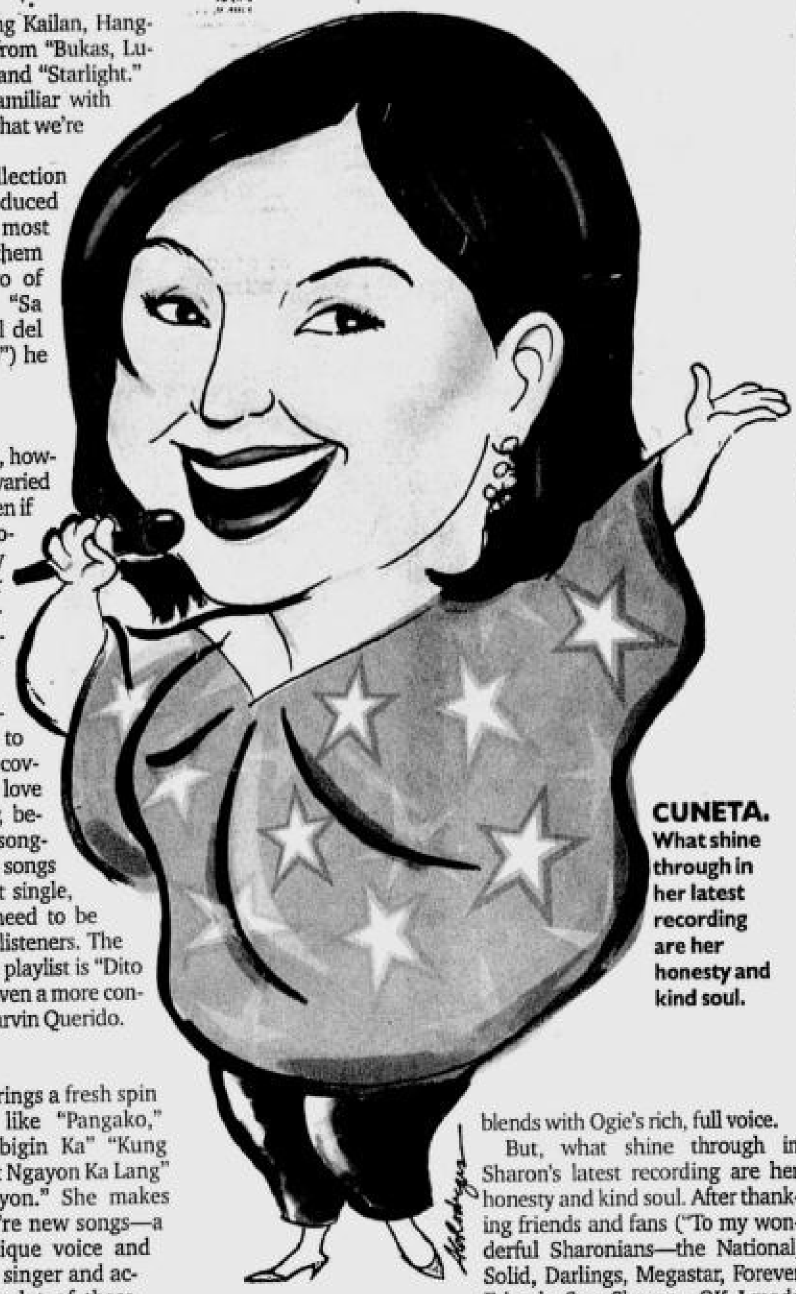
"Sharon Sings Alcasid" took two years to complete, but it mostly covers Ogie's sentimental love songs—which is a pity, because the comic-actor-songwriter also has upbeat songs ("Peksman," Ogie's first single, comes to mind) that need to be reintroduced to young listeners. The only fast number in the playlist is "Dito Sa Puso Ko," which is given a more contemporary sound by Marvin Querido.

Fresh spin

Sharon, however, brings a fresh spin to overused ditties like "Pangako," "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka" "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and "Hanggang Ngayon." She makes them sound like they're new songs—a testament to her unique voice and emotive capacity as a singer and actress. The fact that a lot of these songs have also been sung by Regine Velasquez makes this a considerable feat for Sharon.

Our top cuts: "Sana"; "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," which showcases how seamlessly Sharon shifts from natural voice to head tone; "Hanggang Ngayon," and the two versions (solo and duet) of "Nandito Ako," in which she perfectly blends with Ogie's rich, full voice.

But, what shine through in Sharon's latest recording are her honesty and kind soul. After thanking friends and fans ("To my wonderful Sharonians—the National, Solid, Darlings, Megastar, Forever Friends, *Sexy* Sharon—OK, I made that up!"), she eloquently shared her love for daughter KC: "Thank you for inspiring and telling me what I need to hear when I need to hear it!"



CUNETA. What shine through in her latest recording are her honesty and kind soul.

Fewer but better films

By Nestor U. Torre

MOVIE people complain that fewer films are being produced. The slump is real and painful, which is why we support different individuals and groups' efforts to generate more film activity on the local scene.

However, it's instructive to note that the current slump in movie production has resulted in a higher percentage of good movies being made. That's an inadvertent advantage, but it should be underscored and celebrated.

Selective

In the past, when we were making as many as 200 films annually, the general level of quality wasn't as high. Movie production was relatively cheaper in those days, so producers weren't as selective about the scripts they chose to turn into films.

For instance, decade ago, in 1994, around 100 movies were produced, and only around 11 of them were relatively choice: "Kapantay ay Langit," "Bawal na Gamot," "Comfort Women," "Hukom .45," "Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng Buhay Ko," "Wating," "Maala-ala Mo Kaya," "Walang Matigas na Tinapay sa Mainit na Kape," "Mayor Cesar Climaco," "The Fatima Buen Story" and "Pangako ng Kahapon."

On point of contrast, the 2005 film year is only half over, and yet we've already viewed a good number of creditable productions, some of which have gotten a worthy grade of "B" from the Cinema Evaluation Board, entitling them to a 65-percent rebate on amusement taxes. Even more impressively, one film, "La Visa Loca," has even won a grade of "A," resulting in a 100-percent rebate.

Content

This higher level of quality in terms of content and production values results from the bigger budget required to make movies these days. Many producers have closed down their studios, and the few movie companies (Star Cinema, Regal and its sister companies, Viva, Seiko, etc.) now have to think *thrice* before deciding to shoot a particular project.

They keep reminding themselves that the local film scene has radically changed, and so has the make-up of the Filipino film audience.

Due to high ticket prices, the traditional *masa* or "*bakya* crowd" audience has generally stopped seeing films in theaters, and instead watches tapes and discs of movies at home.

In addition, piracy has eaten into the profits producers make from showing their cinematic products.

And the mall cineplex circuit has become even more prevalent than the neighborhood, single-standing theater circuit of old.

Higher expectations

This has created a more middle-class movie audience with higher expectations and demands, which producers have to meet if they intend to stay in business. This new audience also demands fresher movie concepts, instead of the formula movies that producers used to churn out.

Even the faces of stars have changed. Most significantly, only a few action stars remain, with yesterday's macho superstars now generally restricting their performances to TV sitcoms.

In the light of these changes, local producers have been coming up with fewer but better movies, and that's a key development local film buffs should understand, appreciate and celebrate.

ROBIN Padilla's latest starrer, "La Visa Loca," got an "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

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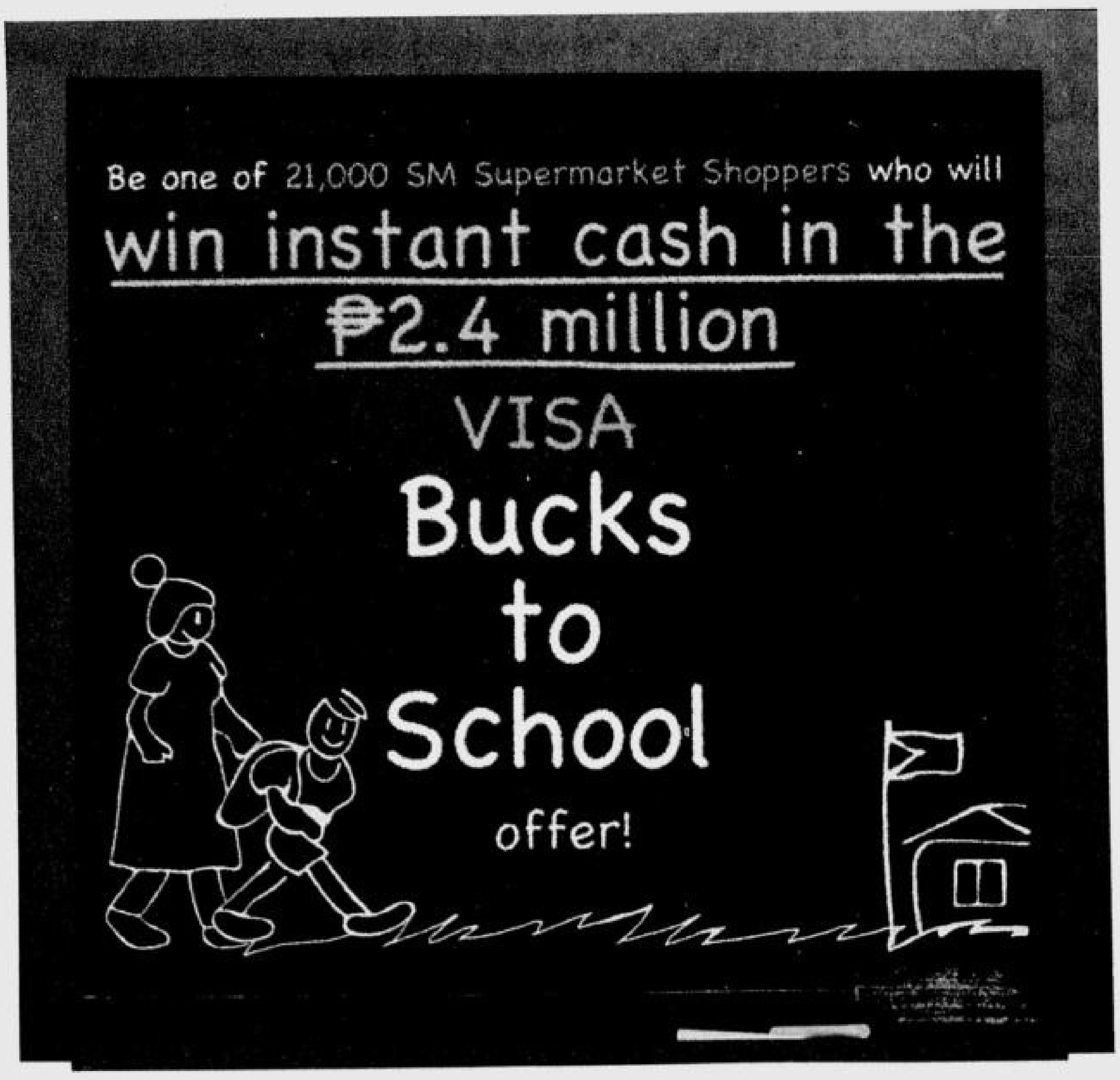

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Saving trees

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

A MAP of the Philippines was recently presented to the core group of The Pearl Principle, headed by Prof. Nelia Cruz-Sarcol of CIE-Cebu. According to accounts of the first Spaniard settlers, during their time, dense tree growth covered 90 percent of our mountains.

By 1900, forest cover had been reduced to 70 percent. By 2010, it is predicted that only 3.3 percent of the country will be covered with trees.

Logging is a major reason. Forests are cleared up to be utilized for tourism and industrial developments.

Serious consequence

A serious consequence is the continuous dwindling of our water supply. In a few years, water will become an expensive commodity.

Because of unsustained reforestation projects, and the poor implementation of laws to protect our forests, we are now enduring drastic climate changes.

Annually, we lose 2.1 percent of our forests, the value of which is parallel to the annual population increase. "What can we do to slow down the rapid loss?," asks Cecil de Castro.

Conversion

The government should enforce laws on logging, clearing and land-use conversion. We should protect and maintain our national parks.

From 1960 to 1997, the National Statistical Coordination Board reported that the government and the private sector reforested 1.6 million hectares of land, but this effort is not sustained. There's an urgent need to be more vigilant in this regard!

Manila honors . . .

From page A2-1

Garcia was already in my mind to play the lead. So, when he agreed to star in my film, the whole production team was ecstatic!

We all seemed like students learning from the master. He reported to the set on time, ready for take, and with all his costumes prepared. He values the film's material, and makes it a point to ask for revisions when needed. Collaborating with him is a dream come true.

During breaks, *Tito* Eddie would eat with the crew, joke with them and share anecdotes about the films he has made through the years. There was never a dull or tense moment on the set. We all fell in love with his commitment and work ethic.

During our first day of shoot, he asked a lot of questions: "Why are we using this camera angle? Where's the specific brandy glass?" It was initially intimidating, but we learned that, once we explained things properly, he would calmly acquiesce.

Dream role

The man has been in the industry for more than 50 years. Yet, he listens to everyone. During the Cinemalaya press conference, he shared that *Lolo* Joseph was a dream role for him.

If the Americans have Jack Nicholson, we have our own Eddie Garcia, who dedicates his life to his craft. Long live, *Manoy!*

SATURDAY *Special*

DAVID. Her proud parents are Mon and Ann David.

MARASIGAN. Dennis Marasigan and Irma Adlawan's gifted daughter.

New 'Caysasay' leads have great performing genes

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE from topbilling popular and experienced performers like Ogie Alcasid, Cocoy Laurel, Ivy Violan and Tommy Abuel, Ryan Cayabyab's new religious musical, "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," also stars two lovely and gifted acting, singing and dancing finds, Nicole David and Ira Marasigan.

Theater buffs who have watched the musical's new discoveries in rehearsals for the musical at executive producer Ramon Orlina's house predict a very bright future for them in the performing arts and show business.

Ingénue

Nicole and Ira alternate in the ingénue lead role of Laine, a Fil-Am teenager who comes home to Taal, Batangas, to pray to the Virgin of Caysasay for a miraculous cure for

NEW/ A3-2

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Gays on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

GAY performers and characters are very popular on local TV these days. They're so visible that you get the impression that most TV programs feel they must have at least one resident gay to keep up with the other shows.

Obviously, the gay factor is popular with viewers, or else it wouldn't be favored so much by TV executives. They must feel that gays add zest, spice, color, sassiness, candor and controversy—all elements that come in handy when you want to enliven a TV program.

Craze

Ironically, however, the gay craze on local television is coming in for criticism—from some gays themselves! They feel that the type of gay favored on TV these days is of the cheap, bitchy, loud, vulgar and "flaming" sort, and thus gives the straight public the wrong impression that all gays are—well, cheap, bitchy, loud, vulgar and flaming!

We know, of course, that there are all sorts of gays, from the cheap to the sophisticated, from the vulgar to the wise, from the flaming to the macho, from the loud to the urbane—so, why aren't those other types being represented on local television?

Most probably, because vulgar is deemed entertaining in these parts, and urbanity is believed to be boring. And local entertainment is geared towards keeping things always eventful, diverting, colorful—and loud!

Still, other gays fret that homosexuals' cheap and bitchy image on TV results in the viewing public having a low regard for all gays, even those who have more to offer society than just shrill "entertainment."

This is most unfortunate, because in other aspects of the nation's life, gays are trying to come into their own as responsible and productive members of society.

Discrimination

They're also attempting to get beyond the gender discrimination and gay bashing that the members of the so-called "third sex" have been suffering from for generations.

They've been experiencing some success in this regard in other fields. But, in show biz, it's back to square one, as the cheap and vulgar gay holds forth, still the court jester who thrives on ridicule, whose gargoyle gayness obliterates any true understanding of his true personhood.

That's why other gays urge their "representatives" on the tube to think about the negative effect that their vulgar performances are having on viewers' perception of homosexuals, in general.

However, some gays on TV counter that they can't do anything about the situation, because their producers and directors require them to scream and "flame." If they toned their performances down, they could lose their jobs!

Plea

That's why concerned gays are addressing their plea to TV producers and directors—quite a number of whom, by the way, are gay—to rationalize the hysterical situation and present different kinds of gay characters on the small screen.

They are in the best position to alter the viewing public's low impression of all gays, so they should use their considerable power to uphold and not denigrate their own ilk.

Look, for instance, at the gay characters on US TV sitcoms like "Will and Grace": They're gay, they entertain, but they lead full lives and concern themselves with other aspects to their lives other than their gayness. Can't local gays on TV be made to be as multi-faceted and grounded?

New . . .

From page A3-1

her ailing mother.

It's a difficult role that tests the two young performers' artistic resources, but they embrace the challenge because they fully believe in the musical's script, music and lyrics, and their power to move and transform audiences.

In addition, they hope that the production's decision to have a teenage protagonist will make it appeal to other young people, so the 400-year-old tradition of Our Lady of Caysasay will become accessible and empathetic to younger generations of viewers.

Both Nicole and Ira have impressive artistic genes: Nicole is the daughter of singer-songwriter-musician Mon David and his wife, Ann, manager of Multi-Directional Music Productions.

Ira's parents are director, lighting designer and CCP marketing manager Dennis Marasigan and acclaimed actress, Irma Adlawan.

No wonder they're so gifted! Aside from their genes, however,

NEW/A3-3

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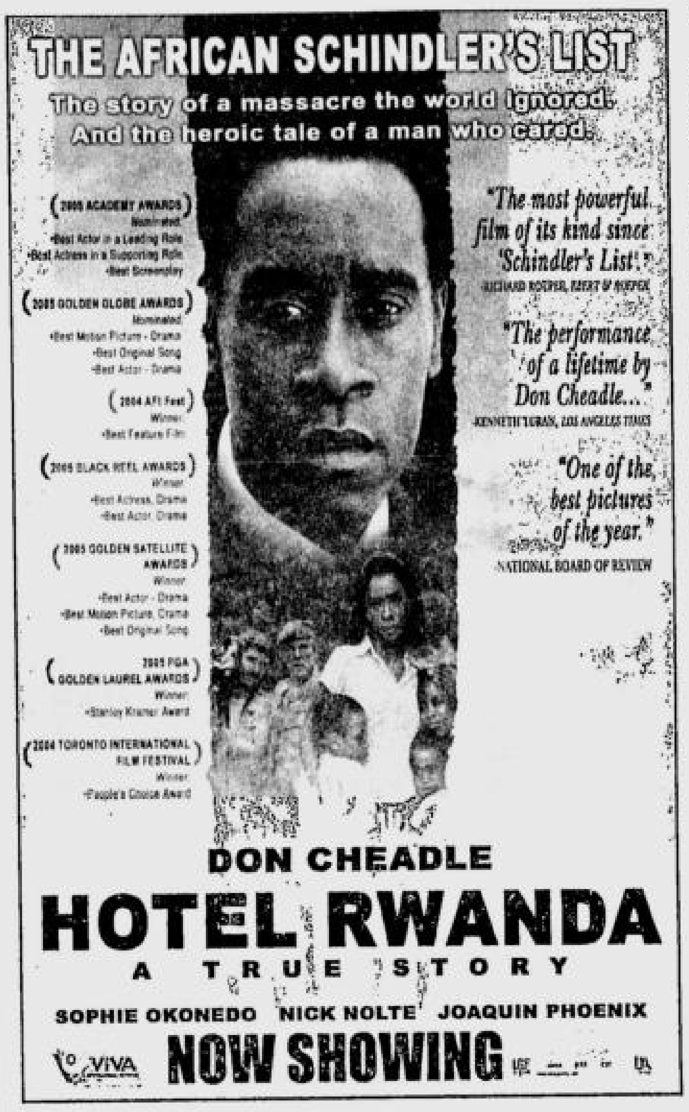
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Gateway Cineplex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 BATMAN BEGINS
DOLBY DIGITAL·EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY 1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25
MR & MRS SMITH 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:00 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW 1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25
BATMAN BEGINS 12:20/ 1:00 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 6:00/ 6:40 / 8:50 / 9:30
HOTEL RWANDA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
NASAAN KA MAN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
BATMAN BEGINS 1:40 / 4:30 / 7:20 / 10:10
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ NASAAN KA MAN 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❷ BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15
❸ MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
❹ HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
❺ MONSTER IN LAW 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES June 25, Saturday, 1pm
June 26, Sun. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:15pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 6.35pm Shell vs Talk N Text
June 29, Wed (if necessary) 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:45pm Talk N Text vs Shell / 7:15pm San Miguel vs Red Bull
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC July 2, Sat, 1pm & 3pm
CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS: Celine Sale with up to 50% off on selected items from July 1 to 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall
Bayo Sale with up to 50% off on selected items from July 8 to 24 at Level 3 of Gateway Mall
EXHIBIT: Herbie: Fully Loaded life-size replica on display from July 7 to 13 at the Gateway Cineplex 10 lobby
SPECIAL APPEARANCE: Neil Gaiman Book Signing on July 11, 4pm at Fully Booked on Level 2 of Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Mitch Valdes in 'A Rockin' Comedy'

LAST night, Mitch Valdes launched her new show, "A Rockin' Comedy," at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel. Other performances are at 9 p.m. tonight and on succeeding weekends until July 16.

MONTAGE

The show's title speaks for itself: It combines rock and comedy, two aspects of entertainment at which Mitch excels. Musical direction is by Mel Villena, and Kokoy Jimenez directs.

Call Ticketworld at 891-5610, 891-9999, or the Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888.

VALDES. Performs at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar.

'Sakada'

At 10:30 tonight on ABC-5's "ABCinema," Behn Cervantes' acclaimed socio-political drama, "Sakada," will be screened. The must-see film stars Rosa Rosal, Robert Arevalo, Hilda Koronel, Alicia Alonzo, Pancho Magalona, Bembol Roco and Gloria Romero.

'The New Police Story'

In his upcoming starrer, "The New Police Story," Jackie Chan stars as Senior Inspector Wing, a respected police officer who faces the toughest crime-solving challenge in his career:

After pulling off a heist, a gang deliberately sets off an alarm to alert the cops. When Wing and his men raid the gang's lair, a surprise attack is launched against them. Wing survives, but loses his best men.

Despondent, Wing turns to drink. Later, however, he snaps out of his despondency, and with the help of new colleagues, stumbles upon vital information that enables him to beat the gang at its own game. "The New Police Story" opens in theaters on July 13.

CHAN. Plays a respected police officer.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 25 at 7:15 p.m., "Top Gun." 12:20 a.m., "21 Grams." June 26 at 6:30 a.m., "Moscow on the Hudson." 8:30 a.m., "The Freshman." 1:30 p.m., "The First Wives Club." 8 p.m., "The Last Samurai." 1:35 a.m., "Soapdish."

On Cinemax, June 25 at 9 p.m., "Reality Bites." June 26 at 10 a.m., "True Colors." 10:30 p.m., "Star Trek: Nemesis." 12:35 a.m., "The Evil That Men Do." 2 a.m., "Clockers."

New 'Caysasay'...

From page A3-2

Nicole and Ira are creative and hardworking performing talents, and rehearsing for the "Caysasay" show has made them fall in love with musical theater!

Prior to their being tapped to be the young leads of Cayabyab's musical, both Nicole and Ira performed in school productions, and with the Ateneo Glee Club.

Leader

Nicole Ann David is a junior at the Ateneo de Manila University, taking up AB Communication Arts. She graduated from grade school and high school with honors, was a student council leader in high school, and has received a GMA Presidential Award for Leadership. The productions she's performed in include her father's "Crossing Over" concert, "West Side Story," "One for the Soul," "Moses, Moses," and "Himig Xientia."

For her part, Ira Patricia Marasigan was a dean's lister at the Ateneo, graduating with a major in Interdiciplinary Studies and a minor in French studies.

Her performing experience includes lead roles in "Lam-Ang," "Don Juan: Babaero ng Sevilla" and "Paraiso."

Passion

Singing is her passion. She won her first singing contest when she was only five years old! She sang the role of Mary in the "Maytinis" celebration of Kawit, Cavite. And she is currently part of a three-girl group, Melange, that sings at the Makati Shangri-La lobby every Thursday night.

It is hoped that the "Birhen ng Caysasay" musical will showcase Nicole and Ira's talents to the fullest, and usher in more musical triumphs for them in the future. They fully deserve every new success that comes their way!

("Birhen ng Caysasay" will be performed at the CCP Little Theater from July 7 to 10. Call 781-5918, or email orlina@pldtdsl.net.)

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB: GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
MTRCB: PG-13
11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15

3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE H2G2
MTRCB: GP
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

4 HOTEL RWANDA
MTRCB: R-13
11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

PREMIERE THEATRE MR.& MRS. SMITH
MTRCB. PG-13 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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1 BATMAN BEGINS
10:30, 1:35, 4:40
7:45, 10:50
GP

2 MONSTER IN-LAW
12:20, 2:55, 5:30
8:05, 10:40
GP

3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
12:35, 3:10, 5:40
8:20, 10:50
GP

4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 10:55
PG-13

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HOTEL RWANDA 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	BATMAN BEGINS GP 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:10	THE HITCHHIKER GP 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:20,3:10 MONSTER IN LAW PG13 6:05,8:25	MR. & MRSSMITH R13 12:05,2:35,5:05,7:35,10:05	MONSTER IN LAW PG13 12:55,3:15,5:35,7:55,10:15

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Nasaan Ka Man
4 Batman Begins
5 Mr & Mrs Smith
P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5 Metropolis 5

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2 Mr & Mrs Smith
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Batman Begins
6 Nasaan Ka Man

starmall LAS PIÑAS
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2 Rental Reservation
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Diether Ocampo @ Metropolis June 19 Sunday

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PROMENADE
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CINEMA 3 MONSTER-IN-LAW PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00. 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 4 HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY GP 10:40, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
CINEMA 5 BATMAN BEGINS GP 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
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JULY 29 & 30 SOULSISTERS 8PM
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MTRCB RATING G

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WAVE 89.1
Official Radio Partner

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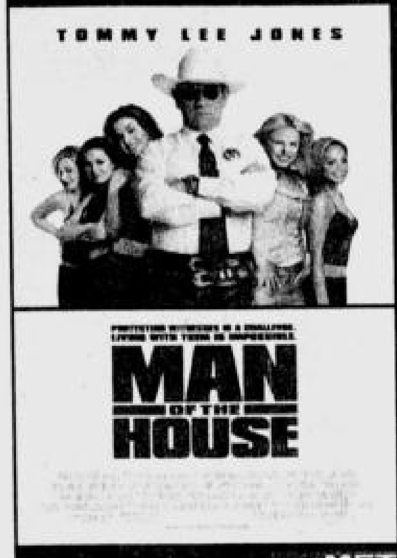
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:15FS/11:40MF/02:00/04:20/05:40 08:40LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

megamall 633-1901
BATMAN BEGINS 11:15FS/11:45MF/02:30/05:15 07:35LFS/08:00LMF/10:20END

cebu (032) 231-3878
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:30LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
2 BATMAN BEGINS 10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:45/07:05/ 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END



Witness this hilarious comedy about a Texan ranger teamed up with cheerleaders!
Watch it EXCLUSIVELY at SM Cinema Manila starting June 15, 2005.
WAVE 89.1

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
2 HOTEL RWANDA
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SHUTTER
8 ICE PRINCESS
9 MONSTER-IN-LAW
10 BATMAN BEGINS
11 NASAAN KA MAN
12 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE

sm city fairview
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 PREMONITION
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
9 SHUTTER
10 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
11 KILITI
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm north edsa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 HOTEL RWANDA
5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

sm city manila
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HOTEL RWANDA
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 KILITI
8 A LOT LIKE LOVE
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 HOUSE OF WAX
11 SHUTTER
12 PREMONITION

sm city sta mesa
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SHUTTER
7 UNLEASHED
8 MAN OF THE HOUSE
9 KILITI
10 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm city southmall
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 MADAGASCAR
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 SIN CITY
10 SHUTTER

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city bicutan
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 SIN CITY
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 PREMONITION

sm city baguio
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city bacoor
1 KILITI
2 MADAGASCAR
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MONSTER IN LAW
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 NASAAN KA MAN
7 PREMONITION
8 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city marilao
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city dasmariñas
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 PREMONITION
4 BATMAN BEGINS

sm city lucena
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city cagayan de oro
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 UNLEASHED
4 NASAAN KA MAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MADAGASCAR
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
7 NASAAN KA MAN
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city iloilo
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 RESERVED
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 UNLEASHED
7 RESERVED
8 COACH CARTER

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2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 HOUSE OF WAX

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1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
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Honesty	Jaya	103033
Lady Marmalade	Jaya	103034
With A Little Help From My Friends	Jaya	103035
If I Keep My Heart Out Of Sight	Jennifer Ventura	103036
Turn Off the Lights	Kitchie Nadal	103037
Some Good Things Never Last	Kuh Ledesma	103038
The Way We Were	Kuh Ledesma	103039
Vision Of Love	Mailyn Yu	103040
Looking Through The Eyes Of Love	Marco Sison	103041
Words Get In The Way	Marco Sison	103042
Lost Without Your Love	Mark Bautista	103043
Out Here On My Own	Mark Bautista	103044
How Can I Fall	Nino Alejandro	103045
Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow	Pops Fernandez	103046
What Matters Most	Rachel Alejandro	103047
Through The Rain	Rachelle Ann Go	103048
I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing	Regine Velasquez	103049
In Your Eyes	Regine Velasquez	103050
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SATURDAY Special

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Fonda, Cheadle shine in comic, dramatic vehicles

FONDA, LOPEZ AND VARTAN. Considerable stellar wattage.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Hotel Rwanda"

D: Terry George
S: Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo, Nick Nolte

THE FILM to watch this week is Terry George's gripping film adaptation of the 1994 racial genocide—with a body count that rose to more than a million in three months!—that went almost unnoticed by the rest of the world.

Touching and powerfully disturbing, it dramatizes Paul Rusesabagina's (Don Cheadle) uncommon courage to save the lives of helpless refugees—1,268 of them—from the clutches of hate and racial discrimination, by granting shelter to the refugees in the five-star hotel he manages.

Current companion films to this small gem are Paul Haggis' thoughtful film, "Crash," and Raoul Peck's HBO movie, "Sometimes in April."

Enlightening and empowering, George's film resonates with its powerful, gut-wrenching images that remind us of what man's greed and megalomania can do, and boasts of indelible performances from Oscar nominees Cheadle and Sophie Okonedo, who plays his wife Tatiana.

The film will shake—and hopefully break—the cynicism and moral apathy of these trying times.

CHEADLE (RIGHT) AND OKONEDO. Powerful performances.

When Paul starts to lose hope over the international assistance he is hoping for, he says: "If people see this footage (of the genocide) on TV, they'll say: 'Oh, my God, that's horrible!' And then, they'll go on eating their dinner!"

There's truth to what he's saying.

"Monster-in-Law"

D: Robert Luketic
S: Jane Fonda, Jennifer Lopez

Jane Fonda returns to the screen after 15 years of "retirement," and shows J Lo how to ham it up big-time—"Meet the Fockers"-style—and still emerge a winner! The dance diva proves no match to the fitness guru in their cinematic catfight.

In Robert Luketic's predictable bride-versus-psychotic-future-mother-in-law comedy, Charlie (Lopez) finds her worst nightmare brought to life when she meets Viola (Fonda), a recently-terminated Barbara Walters-type celebrity, who happens to be the possessive mother of her fiancé, Kevin (the dashing Michael Vartan)!

What is a girl to do when her paramour's scheming and conniving mom, fresh from a TV-documented psychological meltdown, is determined to scare her away? Does she let go of the man of her dreams, or does she plunge into a riotous, all-claws-out catfight?

The film may not be as intelligent as you'd hope a comeback vehicle for Fonda would be, but there's a lot to comic hemming and hawing and just-for-kicks over-the-top performances that will sustain your interest—and considerable stellar wattage from Fonda, Lopez and Vartan!

Dramatic confrontations in local films may be characteristically loud and sappy, but J Fo and J Lo's one-on-one will put catty fight scenes between competing female protagonists in local films to shame: It features two pokes, two punches and eight slaps on their beautiful celebrity faces—in one scene alone! Eat your hearts out, Sharon Cuneta and Cherie Gil!

"Ice Princess"

D: Tim Fywell
S: Michelle Trachtenberg, Kim Catrall, Joan Cusack

The social scene lights up for shy Casey Carlyle ("Buffy's" Michelle Trachtenberg) when she discovers the possibilities her science project—her key to Harvard—brings: It transforms the Physics nerd into a figure-skating "Ice Princess."

But, it's hard to keep up appearances when you don't have the money to sustain them (she doesn't even have a coach!) —Unless her mom (Joan Cusack) and her rival's mother, Tina ("Sex and the City's Kim Catrall), agree to help her. Formulaic, but entertaining.

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A well-steered 'Hitchhiker's Guide'

By Noelani Torre

IN the more than two decades of its existence, Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" has been a radio play, a television miniseries, a comic book, a stage play, a computer game, and the first book in a trilogy of five (yes, trilogy, *and* yes, five). After getting pushed around various discussion tables for years, it's finally a movie!

If you don't know anything about the "Hitchhiker's Guide," you'd wonder why film directors like Spike Jonze, Ivan Reitman and Jay Roach hesitated over it before they finally backed out from the project. If you do, however—that is, if you've actually read the book—then, you'll have an inkling as to why these guys didn't want to risk their artistic necks.

Good stuff

It's not that the "Guide" isn't good stuff—it is! It's wildly and anarchically funny—a cross between Monty Python and your usual space saga—and it has spawned a cult following that is as fiercely protective as that of LOTR's. It's not the wrath of hardcore fans that they fear, however, but the material itself—a zany, absurd quest that has no respect for plot and strong narrative lines.

How do you translate all that to the screen? You can't—not really. You can, however, come up with a fairly good approximation, and this is

A WELL/ A4-3

DOUGLAS Adams' movie has spawned a cult following that is as fiercely protective as that of LOTR's.

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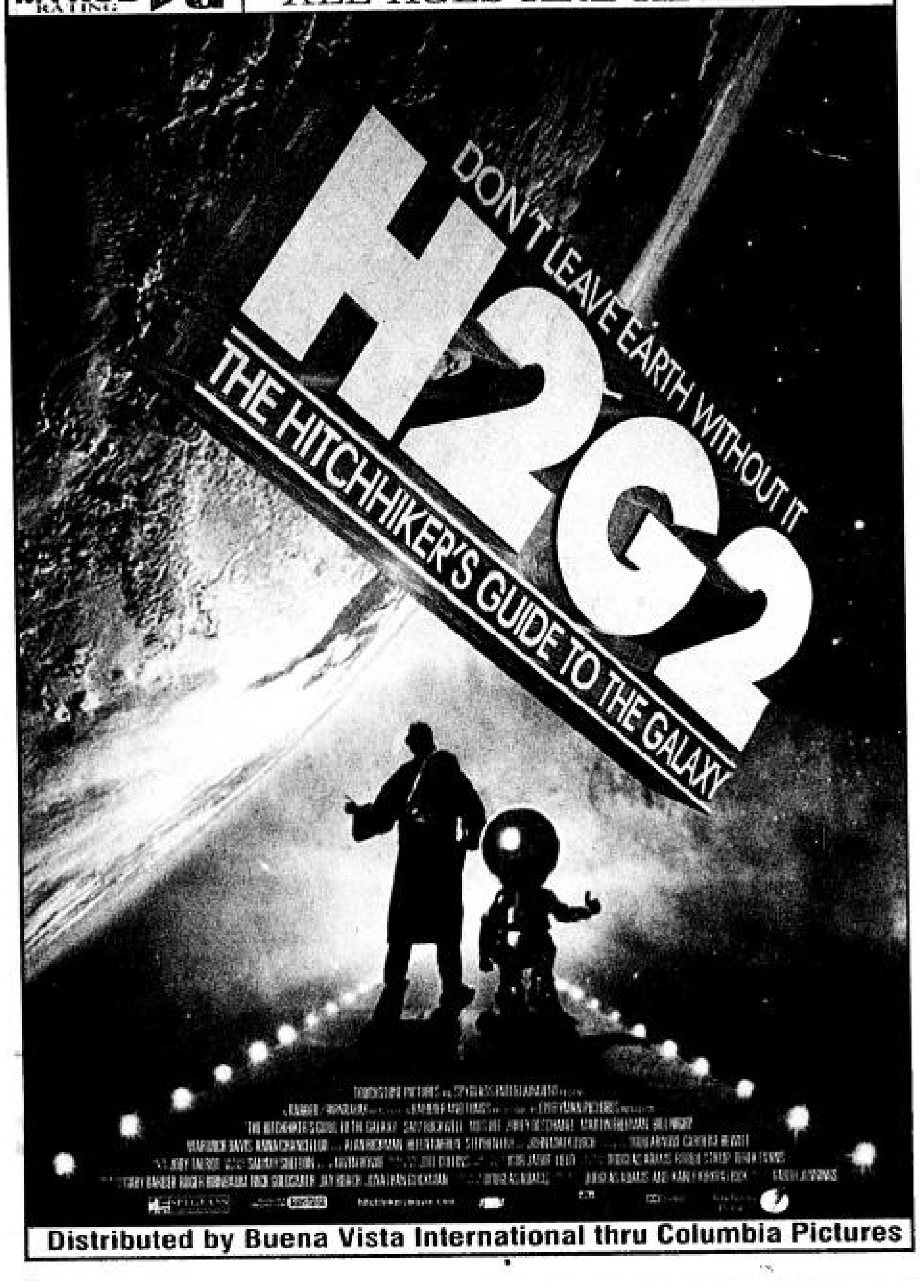

H2G2
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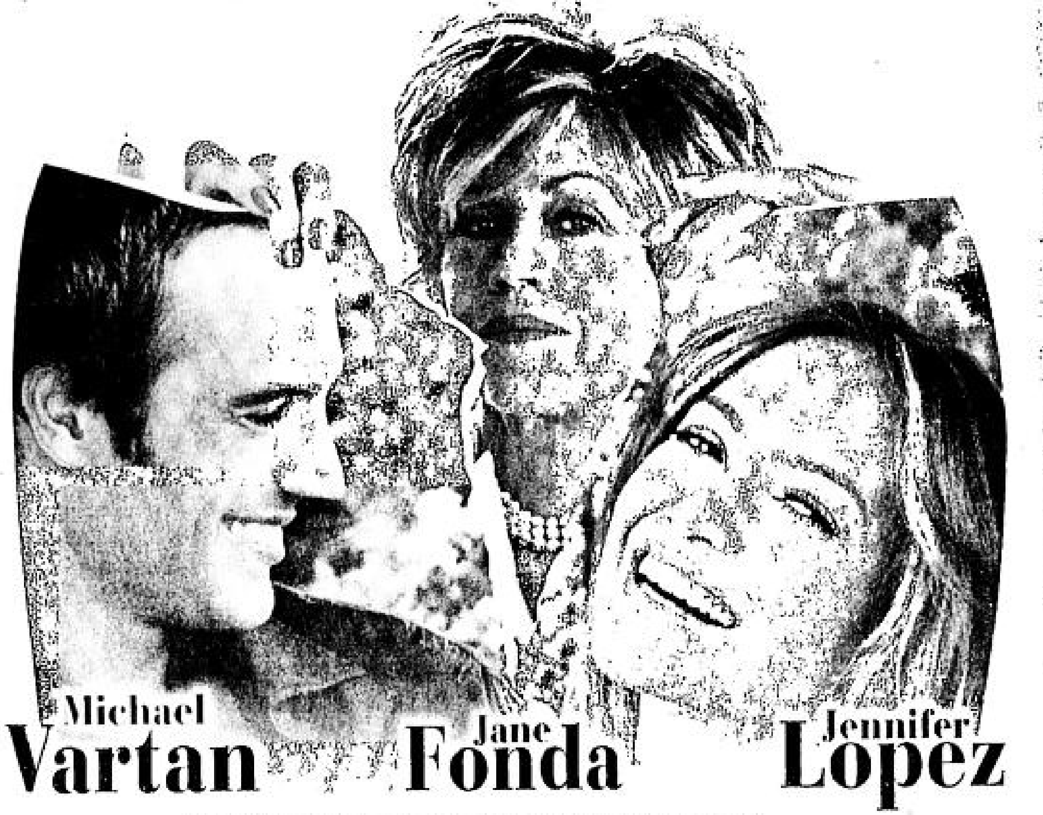
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-PETE HAMMOND / MAXIM

"Move over Clooney, Kilmer and Keaton...There's a new super hero in Gotham City. His name is Christian Bale and he takes the 'Batman' story to stunning new heights!"
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[Batman Begins] owes its power and pleasures to a director who takes his material seriously and to a star who shoulders that seriousness with ease."
-MANOHLA DARGIS / NEW YORK TIMES

"The best studio film so far this year and candidate for The Best Comic Book Movie Adaptation Ever"
-ANDY KLEIN / LOS ANGELES CITYBEAT

"A stellar supporting cast, slyly layered script and fun-filled Bat-gadgets."
-SUSAN GRANGER / SSG SYNDICATE

CHRISTIAN BALE MICHAEL CAINE LIAM NEESON KATIE HOLMES GARY OLDMAN and MORGAN FREEMAN

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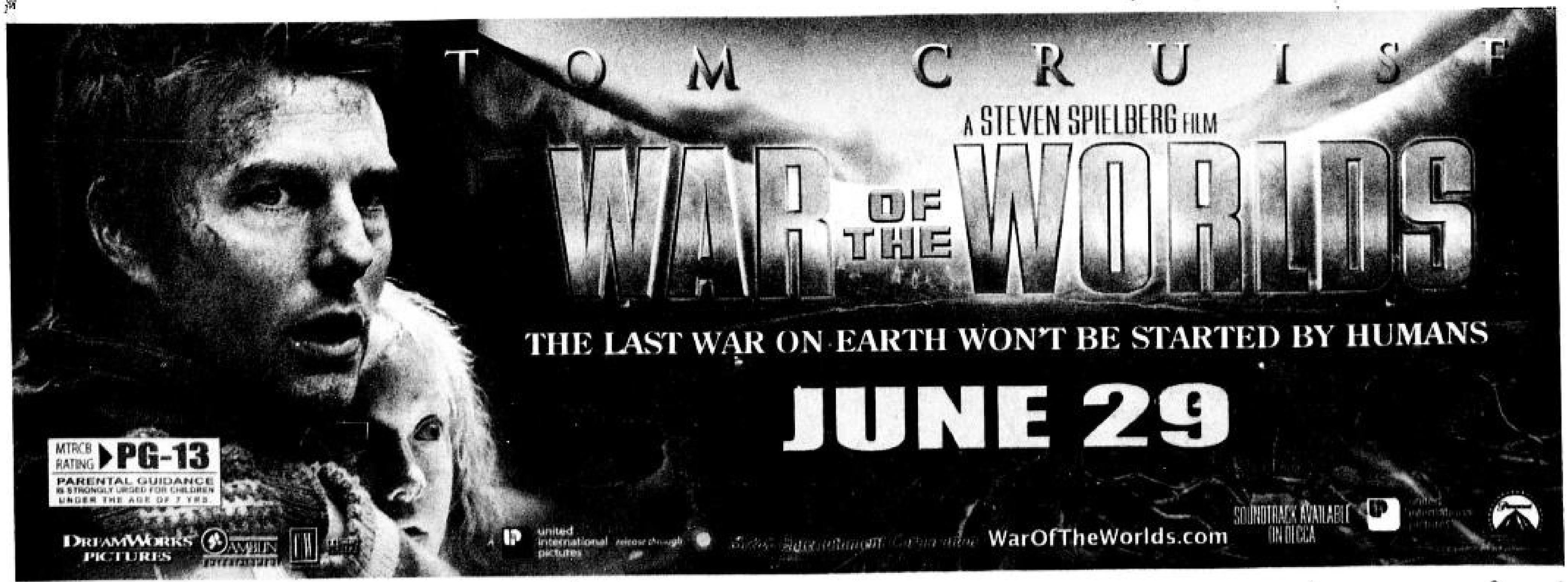

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Getting to know Cinemalaya's finalists

By Nestor U. Torre

IT ALL began many months ago last year, when more than 180 new filmmakers submitted storylines for full-length movies to the screening committee for the first Cinemalaya independent filmfest.

The committee read all of the plots and, after a long deliberation, chose 10 finalists who then expanded their stories into full screenplays, which then went into pre-production, shooting and post-production, in time for the indie filmfest's opening on July 12 at the CCP.

Grant

Each finalist production was given a production grant of P500,000, which was supposed to be boosted by counterpart funding secured by each new filmmaker. Nine of the 10 finalists completed their movies, so it's time to get to know the new writer-directors:

Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. is the writer of such acclaimed films as "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanang," "Bayaning Third World" and "Mulanay," and has also directed some documentaries, but his Cinemalaya entry, "Pepot Artista," is his first outing as feature-film director.

He holds a Ph. D in Communication Studies (Film) from the University of Iowa, is the chair of the Department of Communication, De La Salle University-Manila, as well as the Cinema Committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, president of Film Archivists, Philippines, and member of the Cinema Evaluation Board of the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Experience

Thus, he brings a wealth of experience and insights to "Pepot Artista," a comedy-musical that focuses on a 10-year-old whose dream is to become a movie star. Pepot, the dreamer, is surrounded by people who are equally dazzled by the movie world. The film explores the penchant of Filipinos for entertainment in the midst of serious social problems.

Alfred Aloysius Adlawan has studied film at Mowelfund and the New York Film Academy, and has won awards for his screenplays. His Cinemalaya entry, "Roomboy," is about Luis, a motel room boy who learns that his boarding house is about to be demolished.

He looks for a new place to live with the help of Melba, a prostitute. He falls for her, but reminds himself that giving in to his emotions would mean abandoning his wife, Mercy, who is in a mental institution. Torn between Melba and Mercy, Luis turns his search for a place to stay into a journey that leads him to his ultimate dwelling place.

Thesis

Rica Arevalo is a Communication Arts graduate of De La Salle University. Her thesis film, "Nag-aalinlangang Ina," won a CCP Best Video Documentary Award. Her short films have been screened in international festivals in Japan, Amsterdam and Singapore. Her screenplays have won Palanca and Film Development Foundation competition awards.

Her film, "ICU Bed #7," is about an old alcoholic and gambler (Eddie Garcia), who is rushed to the Intensive Care Unit. His daughters Cely (Irma Adlawan) and Beth (Angel Aquino) are torn between ending or prolonging his life through medical intervention. At the same time, they have to cope with their respective husbands and children.

(To be concluded)

DEL MUNDO (seated, far left), Adlawan (seated, third from right) and Arevalo (standing, third from left) are among finalists in the festival's full-length narrative category.

Allegory and abstraction in Tori Amos' 'The Beekeeper'

By Noelani Torre

EVER since the release of her brilliant debut, "Little Earthquakes," back in 1992, Tori Amos has been widely acknowledged as one of the most talented musicians on the scene. She's lived up to the hype for more than a decade, and has released consistently solid albums.

What do you do when you find yourself in the enviable position of being a much-lauded artist? Come up with an autobiography, of course—and while you're at it, why not a new album as well? After all, folks have been calling you "a kind of superwoman."

Sonic musings

Thus, while leafing through "Tori Amos: Piece by Piece" (written with rock journalist Ann Powers), we can don our headphones and listen to Amos' latest sonic musings—all 80 minutes of them—in her 19-track, ninth album, "The Beekeeper."

In typically esoteric Amos fashion, "The Beekeeper" is based on a concept that deals with beehives, the number six, and a beekeeper. We found it a bit vague, to be honest, but Amos is pretty earnest about it—as she is about even her most far-out ideas.

The songs in the album are arranged in six "gardens," though it's not the way the playlist goes. We couldn't understand the logic behind the groupings, nor the reason why they weren't followed, anyway—but then, Amos has never been known for being clear and logical. It's generally known that her middle name is "obscure," something you'll realize five minutes into "The Beekeeper."

Most of the time, we enjoy delving into the layered depths of Amos' songs, but she sometimes tends to get carried away. In this album, there are moments when she ventures out into the outer reaches of abstraction, and leaves us in her symbolic allegorical dust. Then again, there are also moments when it seems as though she's that ultra-familiar, little voice in your head that tells you about things you've forgotten.

AMOS. Intense emotion hiding beneath a soothing melody.

The problem with "The Beekeeper" is that it isn't consistent. Sometimes, it's good, and sometimes it's so bad that you wonder whether Amos' has lost her famed touch.

Take album opener "Parasol," for example: It's one of the best songs here, with intense emotion hiding beneath a soothing melody and the singer's deceptively airy vocals. It makes you think that the rest of the album is going to be just as good, but it seems as though every touch of brilliance here has its dull counterpart ("Ribbons Undone" is particularly cringe-worthy).

Good and bad

In any other artist, this mix of good and bad would be acceptable. But, this is Tori Amos we're talking about here! We expect more from her because, in our experience, she's always delivered—but she seems to have lost her way here. The thing is, this might not have been so bad if she'd been a little more vigorous with the pruning shears. We prefer half an hour of great music to 80 minutes of so-so tunes.

A well-steered . . .

From page A4-2

what rookie director Garth Jennings has done. One-half of music video directing duo Hammer and Tongs (they did that unforgettable Blur video with the walking box of milk), Jennings, like Adams, is British, and he understands the very English humor of "Hitchhiker's Guide."

He does not insult his material by attempting to make it coherent—though the love story element they inserted must have been a half-hearted attempt—instead, he remains true to Adams' loose, loopy and going-off-tangent style.

Story

This doesn't mean that the movie is all over the place. There is a story, after all—one that begins when the world ends! To be more specific: When it is demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass.

The only survivor is Arthur Dent (played to Everyman perfection by Martin Freeman of "The Office"), who is rescued by his friend Ford Prefect (Mos Def), who turns out to be an alien.

They hitch a ride with the demolitionists (ugly creatures called Vogons, whose poetry is an instrument of torture), get ejected, and are picked up by the on-the-run president of the galaxy, Zaphod Beeblebrox (Sam Rockwell); Trillian (Zooey Deschanel), a girl Arthur met at a party and the only other Earthling alive, and Marvin, a depressed robot (voiced to spectacular moroseness by Alan Rickman).

The story goes on from there, but we won't bore you with a recounting. Suffice it to say that they end up looking for the answer to the ultimate question of Life, the Universe, and Everything (also the title of the third book in the series). Deep, huh? The answer, by the way, is 42. It's actually the question itself that's missing!

Visual pun

The film is steeped in visual pun and wordplay. Jennings has wisely decided not to be too smooth with the CGI effects, making space look and feel as crazy as home—and bigger!

They've remained true to the spirit of the book, and the purists who grumble that they didn't get everything in are missing the point. After all, what does the "Guide" tell us? "Don't Panic."

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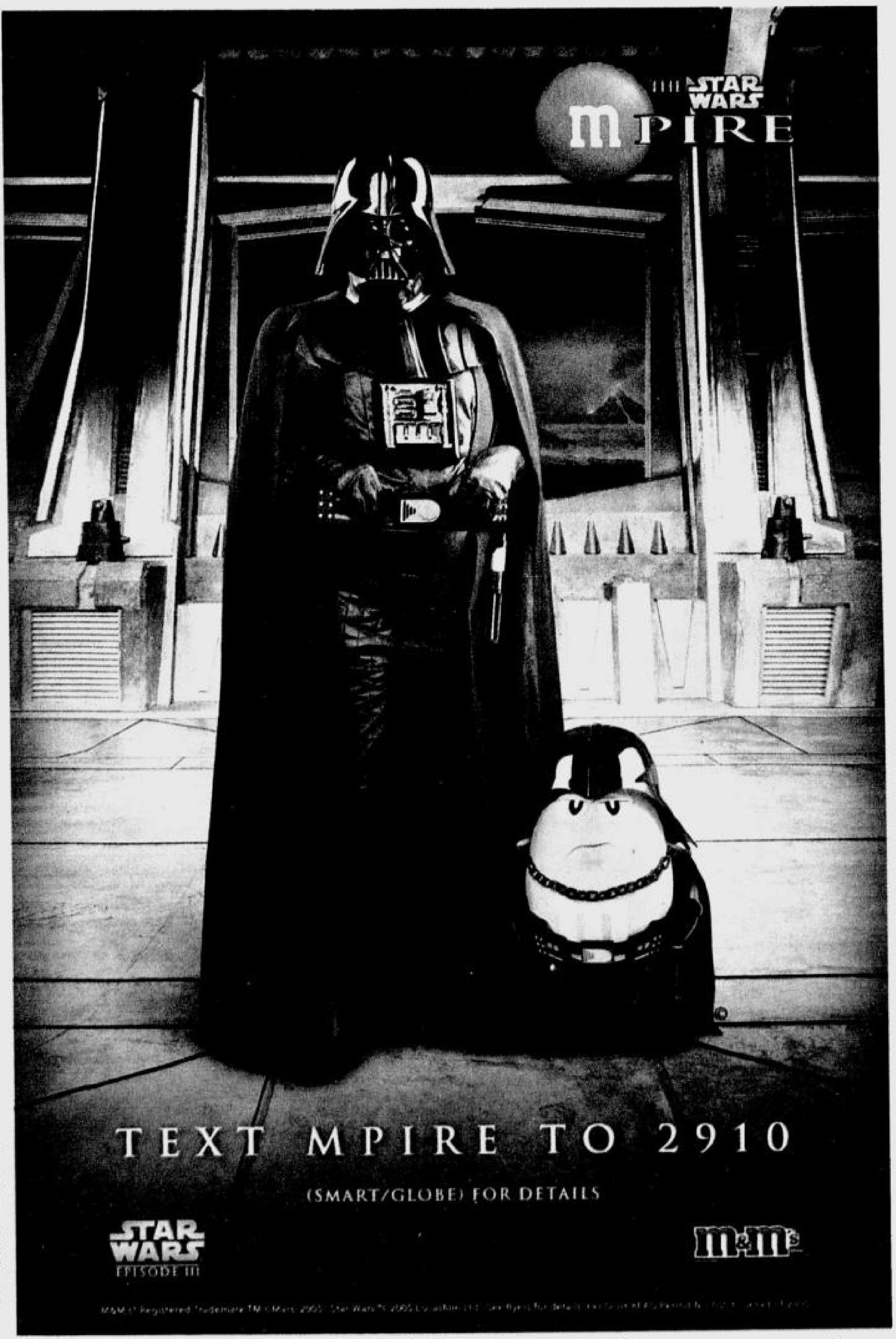
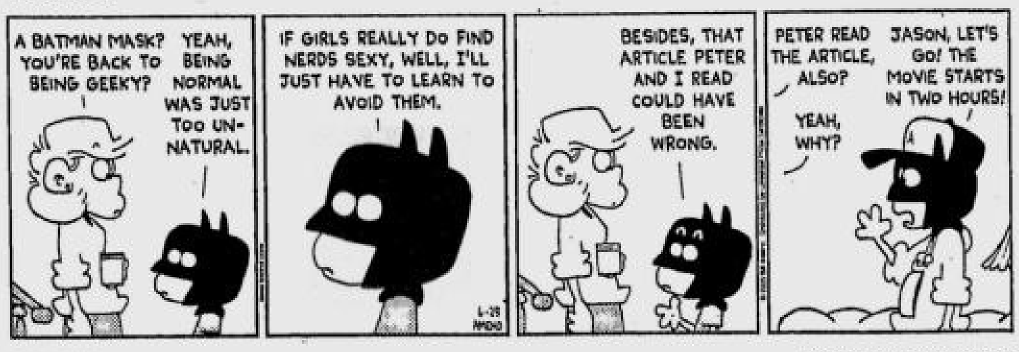


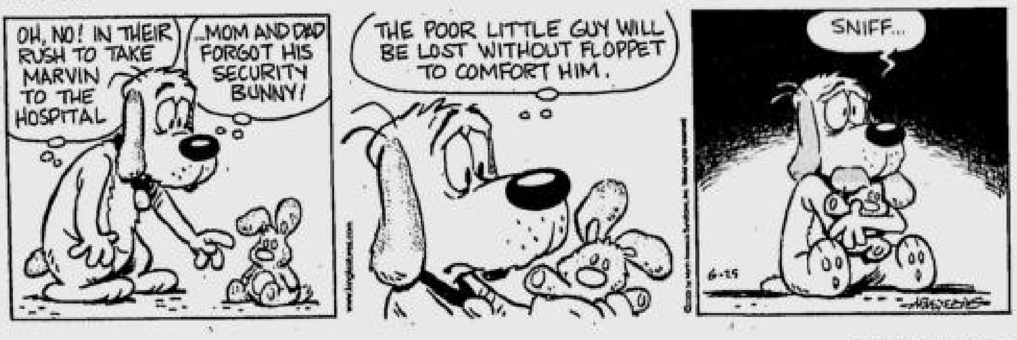
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


A BATMAN MASK? YOU'RE BACK TO BEING GEEKY?
YEAH, BEING NORMAL WAS JUST TOO UN-NATURAL.
IF GIRLS REALLY DO FIND NERDS SEXY, WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO AVOID THEM.
BESIDES, THAT ARTICLE PETER AND I READ COULD HAVE BEEN WRONG.
PETER READ THE ARTICLE, ALSO?
YEAH, WHY?
JASON, LET'S GO! THE MOVIE STARTS IN TWO HOURS!
6-25 AMEND

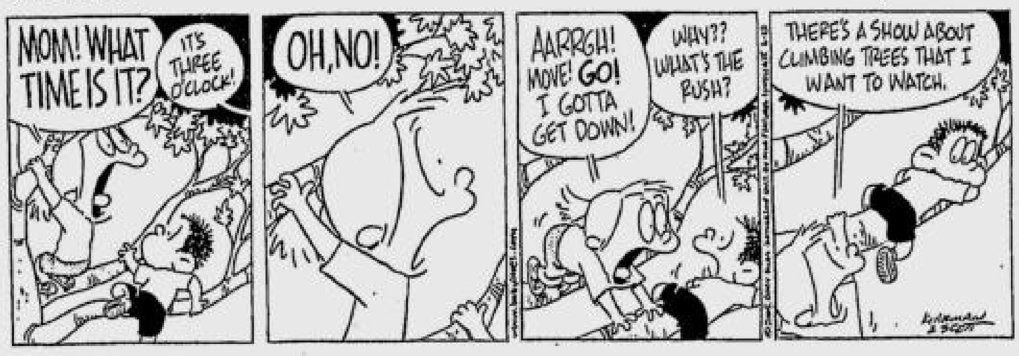
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OH, NO! IN THEIR RUSH TO TAKE MARVIN TO THE HOSPITAL
...MOM AND DAD FORGOT HIS SECURITY BUNNY!
THE POOR LITTLE GUY WILL BE LOST WITHOUT FLOPPET TO COMFORT HIM.
SNIFF...
6-25

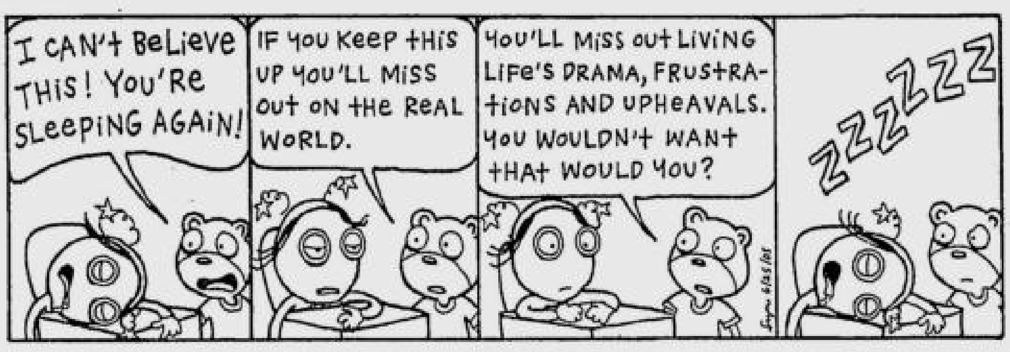
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM! WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S THREE O'CLOCK!
OH, NO!
AARRGH! MOVE! GO! I GOTTA GET DOWN!
WHY?? WHAT'S THE RUSH?
THERE'S A SHOW ABOUT CLIMBING TREES THAT I WANT TO WATCH.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! YOU'RE SLEEPING AGAIN!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP YOU'LL MISS OUT ON THE REAL WORLD.
YOU'LL MISS OUT LIVING LIFE'S DRAMA, FRUSTRATIONS AND UPHEAVALS. YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT WOULD YOU?
ZZZZZZ

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You know how to work with what you have and make the most of it. You can do this better than most people. Your one-pointed determination and your realistic acceptance of what you must do are the qualities that will help you realize your dreams. Your closest relationships are your major focus this year.
Birthdate of: Lucy Benjamin, actress; George Michael, singer; Roy Marsden, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to buy something practical that will last for a long time for your home or for a family member. Real estate deals that take place today are a wise investment.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have some serious advice to give someone today, possibly a sibling. You want others to share your practical point of view. Perhaps they will.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have very down-to-earth, practical ideas about finances and spending money today. You want good value for your dollar. This is a good day to pay bills and reduce your debt.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel serious about something today. You might want to practice your technique for something creative, especially an artistic skill. Practice makes anything easier in the long run.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to make plans behind the scenes, as it were. In private, think about what you really want to accomplish. (Your enthusiasm gives you courage.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Listen to the advice of someone older or more experienced than you today. You could learn something quite valuable. Keep an open mind and be patient.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It appears that the tried-and-true method of doing things is the best approach today. Others admire you for respecting this, and for appreciating tradition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Everything having to do with foreign countries, universities and colleges, publishing, the media and long-distance travel is favored today, especially for business. Long-term plans in these areas look solid.

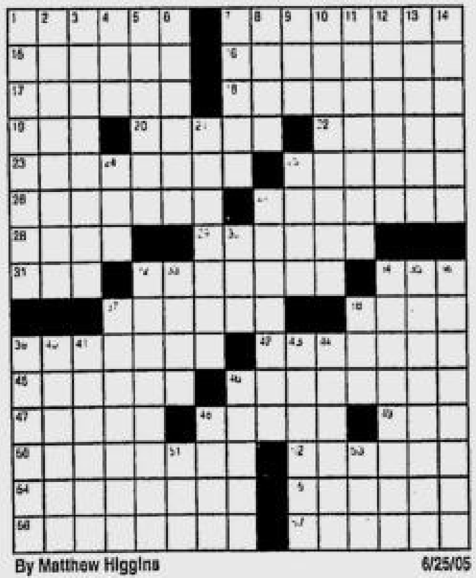
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you can use the resources of others to do something today, do so. You will easily finish important business related to estates, wills, inheritances and shared property.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a fine day to make long-term agreements or to sign documents. You feel quite levelheaded and, at the same time, quite positive and enthusiastic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Old-fashioned, traditional methods might win out today over modern technology. (To play solitaire, you might actually need a deck of cards!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might have a crush on someone older than you. (These things happen.) You feel strong admiration for people who know more than you right now. This is a good day to discuss responsibilities for children.

DAILY CROSSWORD

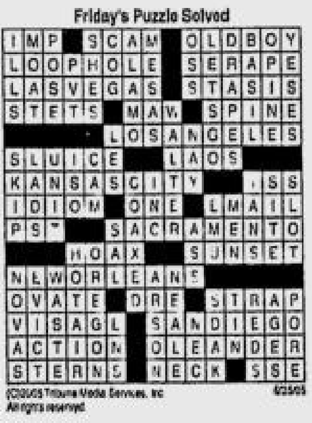


By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
6/25/05

ACROSS
1 Footnote's here and there
7 Fond of company
15 Vicuna's relative
16 Small rollers
17 Stalklike structure
18 Vigorous advocate
19 Sawbuck
20 Spirals
22 Nerve-racking
23 Military materiel
25 More lean and sinewy
26 Backslide
27 Gliding dance steps
28 "A Death in the Family" writer
29 Reprimand
31 __ Angeles
32 Bishop
34 Unruly locks
37 Man of the cloth
38 "Two Years Before the Mast" author
39 Interlocking
42 Confessional stool
45 Receiving callers
46 Driver's safety device
47 Conditions
48 Overdue
49 Hr. segment
50 Like a three-legged stool
52 Exempt
54 Epistle container
55 Vociferous supporter
56 Like some grapes
57 Scornful looks

DOWN
1 Idyllic
2 Second self
3 Revolving parts
4 Early spring runner
5 Arctic cover
6 Bricklayers
7 Lacking in originality
8 J.R.R. Tolkien baddies
9 Slice
10 Start
11 Antagonistic
12 Small Russian pancakes
13 Apartment dweller
14 Aromatic compounds
21 Type of lettuce
24 Aberdeen refusal
25 Huh?
27 Word with safe or soda
30 Wallach or Whitney
32 British sneaker
33 M. Descartes
34 Alaskan sled dog
35 Short, witty remark
36 Mates
37 Chewed noisily
38 Gal at the ball
39 Dull surfaces
40 Forever, in poetry
41 Grant absolution
43 Lowest points
44 Earlier form of a word
46 Business transactions
48 Lights-out signal
51 Unknown John or Jane
53 "The Simpsons" bartender

Friday's Puzzle Solved


IMP■SCAM■OLDBOY
LOOPHOLE■SERAPE
LASVEGAS■STASIS
STETS■MAW■SPINE
■■■■■LOSANGELES
SLUICE■■LAOS■■■
KANSASCITY■■ISS
IDIOM■ONE■EMAIL
PST■■SACRAMENTO
■■■HOAX■■SUNSET
NEWORLEANS■■■■■
OVATE■ORE■STRAP
VISAGE■SANDIEGO
ACTION■OLEANDER
STERNS■NECK■SSE

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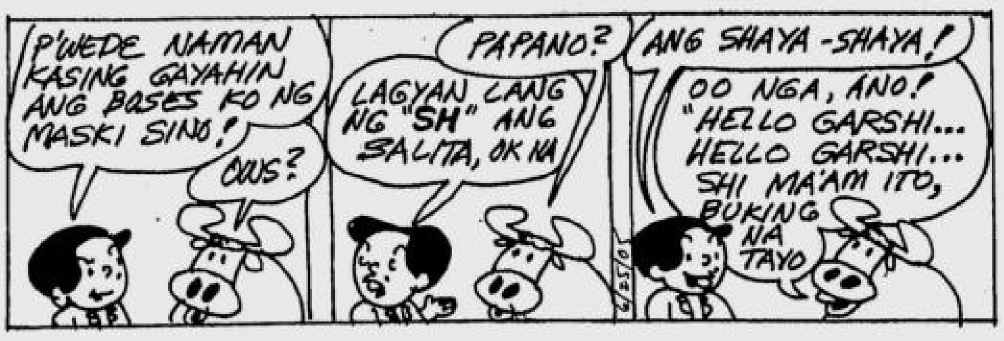
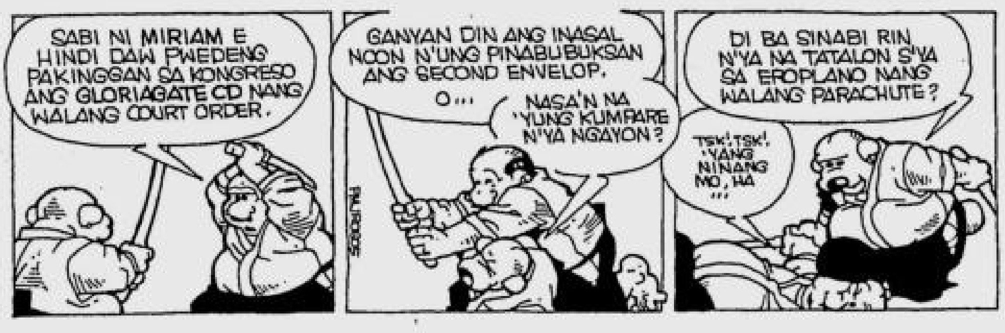
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


P'WEDE NAMAN KASING GAYAHIN ANG BOSES KO NG MASKI SINO!
OWS?
LAGYAN LANG NG "SH" ANG SALITA, OK NA
PAPANO?
ANG SHAYA-SHAYA!
OO NGA, ANO! "HELLO GARSHI... HELLO GARSHI... SHI MA'AM ITO, BUKING NA TAYO
6/25/05

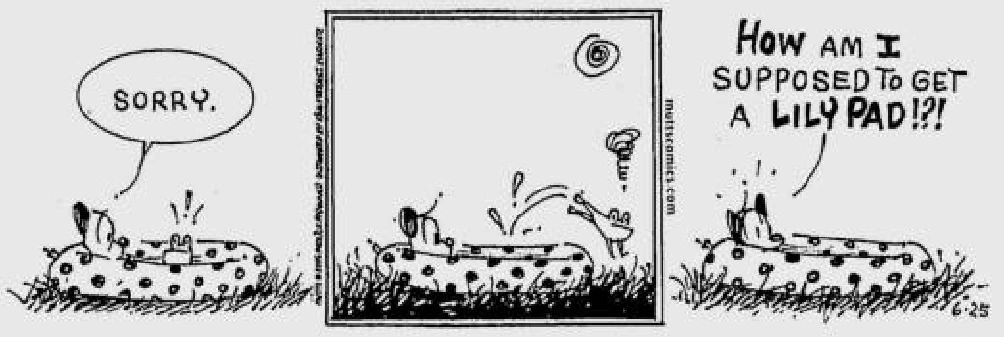
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NI MIRIAM E HINDI DAW PWEDENG PAKINGGAN SA KONGRESO ANG GLORIAGATE CD NANG WALANG COURT ORDER.
GANYAN DIN ANG INASAL NOON N'UNG PINABUBUKSAN ANG SECOND ENVELOP.
O...
NASA'N NA 'YUNG KUMPARE N'YA NGAYON?
DI BA SINABI RIN N'YA NA TATALON S'YA SA EROPLANO NANG WALANG PARACHUTE?
TSK! TSK! 'YANG NINANG MO, HA ...

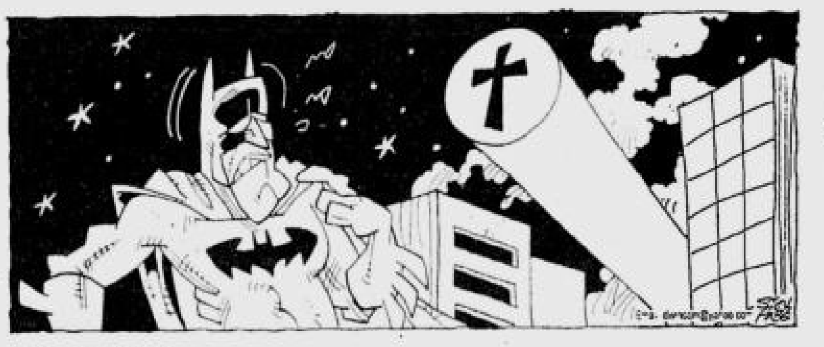
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SORRY.
muttscomics.com
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET A LILY PAD!?!
6·25

DIVINE COMEDY

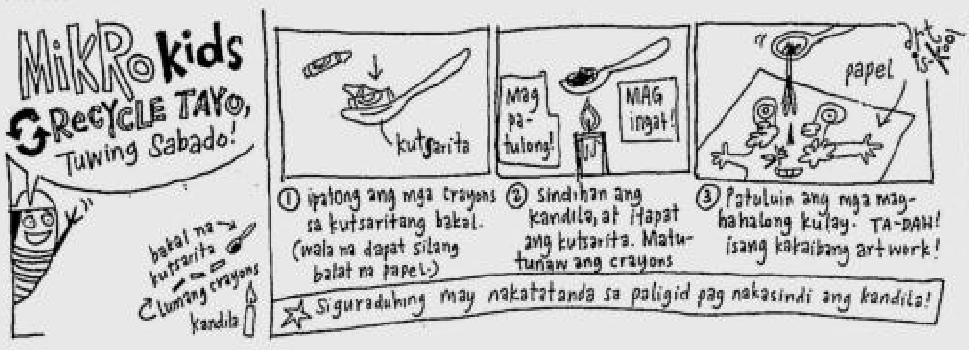
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



AT NAG-KAROON NG IDEYA SI JIM GORDON KUNG PAANO YAYAIN SI BATMAN NA MAGSIMBA KASAMA NYA SA SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH

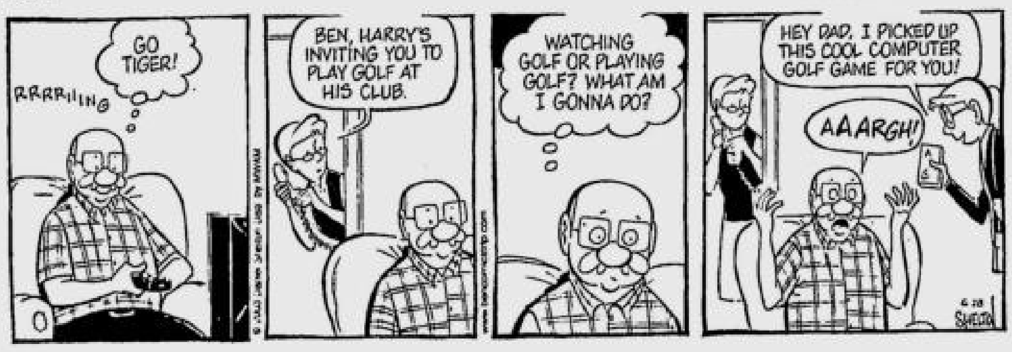
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
bakal na kutsarita
lumang crayons
kandila
kutsarita
Mag pa-tulong!
MAG ingat!
papel
① ipatong ang mga crayons sa kutsaritang bakal. (wala na dapat silang balat na papel.)
② Sindihan ang kandila, at itapat ang kutsarita. Matutunaw ang crayons
③ Patuluin ang mga maghahalong kulay. TA-DAH! isang kakaibang artwork!
Siguraduhing may nakatatanda sa paligid pag nakasindi ang kandila!
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art is-Kool! tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lunes, 4pm sa ABC5

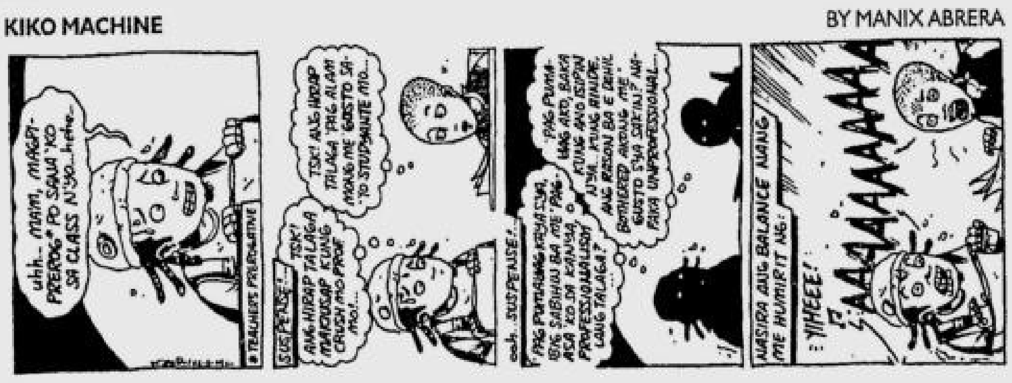
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


RRRRIIING
GO TIGER!
BEN, HARRY'S INVITING YOU TO PLAY GOLF AT HIS CLUB.
WATCHING GOLF OR PLAYING GOLF? WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
HEY DAD, I PICKED UP THIS COOL COMPUTER GOLF GAME FOR YOU!
AAARGH!

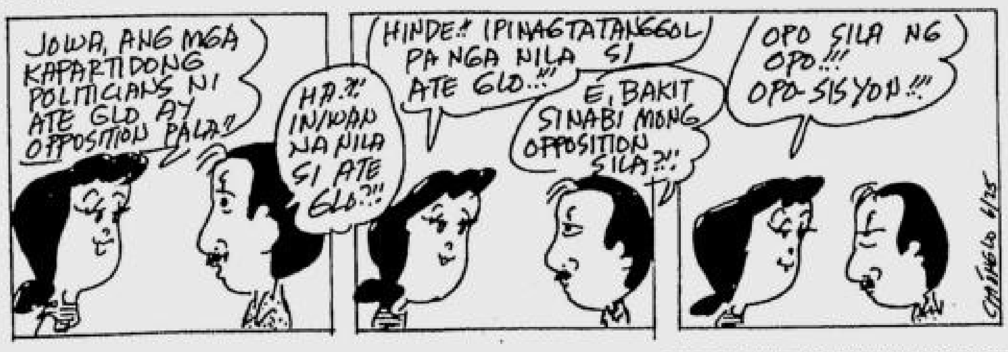
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


uhh... mam, magpa-prerog* po sana ko sa class n'yo... hehe..
*TEACHER'S PREROGATIVE
SUSPENSE!..
TSK! ANG HIRAP TALAGA MAGHUSAP KUNG CRUSH MO PROF MO...
TSK! ANG HIRAP TALAGA 'PAG ALAM MONG ME GUSTO SA 'YO STUDYANTE MO...
ooh.. SUSPENSE!..
PAG PUMAYAG KAYA SYA, IBIG SABIHIN BA ME 'PAG-ASA KO SA KANYA? PROFESSIONALISM LANG TALAGA?
PAG PUMAYAG AKO, BAKA KUNG ANO ISIPIN N'YA. KUNG HINDE, ANG RASON BA E DAHIL BOTHERED AKONG ME GUSTO SYA SAKIN? AT PARA UNPROFESSIONAL...
NASIRA ANG BALANCE NANG ME HUMIRIT NG:
YIHEEE!
AAAAAAAAAA

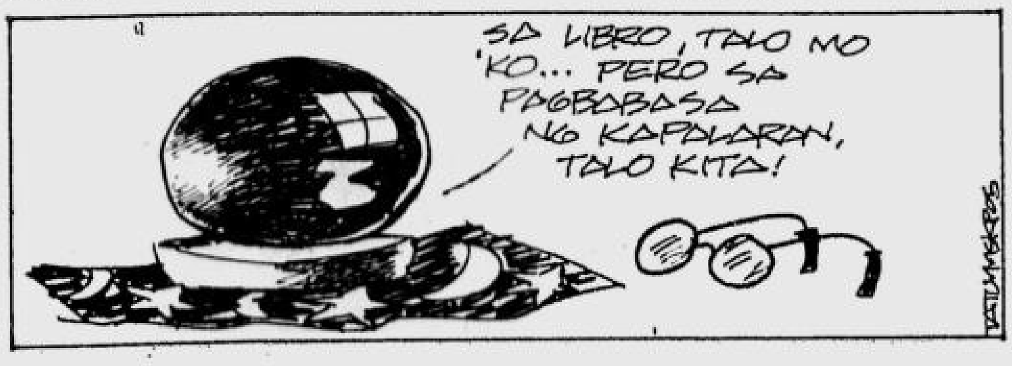
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, ANG MGA KAPARTIDONG POLITICIANS NI ATE GLO AY OPPOSITION PALA?
HA?!! INIWAN NA NILA SI ATE GLO?!!
HINDE!! IPINAGTATANGGOL PA NGA NILA SI ATE GLO..!!
E, BAKIT SINABI MONG OPPOSITION SILA?!!
OPO SILA NG OPO!!! OPO-SISYON!!!
CHIONGLO 6/25

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA LIBRO, TALO MO 'KO... PERO SA PAGBABASA NG KAPALARAN, TALO KITA!

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

WHAT'S INSIDE

US firm buys P11.9B worth of UCPB loans /B2
Jollibee eyes wider Asian reach /B2
LGUs want to take lead in VAT collection /B10

UNSHAKEN BY POLITICAL NOISE

JP Morgan expands in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN banking giant JP Morgan Chase is grooming the Philippines to be a major global backroom support hub as its bullish prospects far outweigh the political noise now rocking the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

In an interview Thursday night, visiting JP Morgan Chase chair for Asia Pacific Ralph Parks said the bank's commitment to the country was for the long haul and was not in any way shaken by the looming political tension.

"I don't know of a country that doesn't have some sort of politicial disturbance, noise, rumors, campaign issues in any region around the world. There isn't a country free from these minor distractions," Parks said.

"Our job is to take a long-term view, assess fundamentals and continue to invest to support our clients and drive our business model successfully," he said.

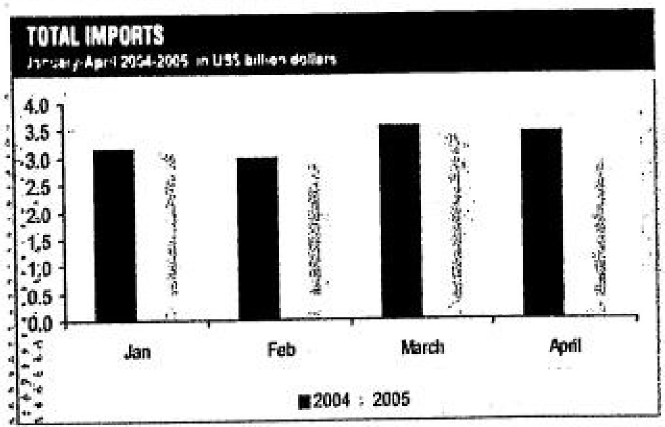
Aside from reviving its local stock brokerage unit that was shut down in the aftermath of the 1997 financial crisis, JP Morgan Chase is putting up before the year ends an onshore call center facility to support its US retail operation.

Asked how the Philippines fit into the bank's Asian strategy, Parks said: "You must imagine that if we've been here for 44 years, it's significant enough to keep our attention and our commitment. Indeed, the Philippines has been and remains a profitable enterprise for us."

"We have very long-term relationships amongst a wide variety of corporate and financial institution clients here, including all the way to the Republic (of the Philippines) itself for international financing and investment liability management activities and we have an enduring commitment," he explained.

JP Morgan senior country officer for the Philippines Frederic Dybuncio added that a team was recently formed to study more op-

JP/B3



Surging oil prices bloat April imports

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE imports rose in April as surging crude prices abroad bloated the country's oil bill.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that overall imports rose by 6.5 percent year-on-year to $3.68 billion in April.

Importations of electronic components fell by 5.9 percent to $1.47 billion, while imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials grew by 69.7 percent to $566.33 million, the NSO said.

Electronics imports are usually raw materials for finished electronics goods, the country's major export product. A decline in imports of electronic components usually signals a drop in electronics exports in the coming months.

The amount of imports in April brought the figure for the first four months of the year to $13.08 billion, or one percent lower than the $13.21 billion a year ago.

While exports for the January-to-April period were earlier reported to have declined by 4.8 percent to $12.75 billion, the Philippines' external trade performance stood at a deficit of $328 million. The trade gap this year was, however, lower than last year's $1.04 billion.

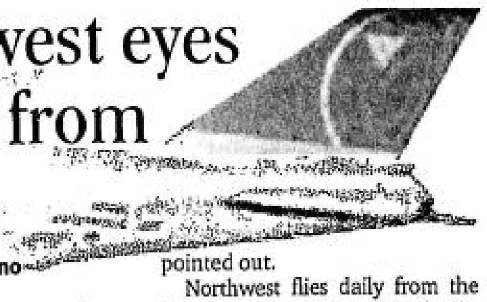
The NSO reported that electronic components imports still accounted for the biggest share of total imports for April, followed by mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials.

Iron and steel was third, accounting for $166.94 million of the import bill, or 32 percent higher than the year-ago level of $126.47 million. The country's fourth top import was industrial machinery and equipment at $142.22 million, 13.2 percent lower than last year's $163.83 million.

Other top imports were cereals and cereal preparations, $140.77 million; transport equipment, $107.8 million; textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products, $97.43 million; plastics in primary and non-primary forms, $73.93 million; telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, $67.73 million; and power generating and specialized machinery, $65.91 million.

The NSO also said the biggest sources of imports were Japan, which accounted for $634.36 million of the total import bill; the United States, $528.76 million; Singapore, $282.88 million; Taiwan, $270.65 million; China, $252.15 million; Saudi Arabia, $200.72 million; Hong Kong, $183.36 million; Republic of Korea, $174.3 million; Malaysia, $156.99 million; and Vietnam, $123.17 million.

Northwest eyes flights from Cebu



By Clarissa S. Batino

AMERICAN carrier Northwest Airlines is exploring the possibility of expanding its local operations in Cebu, according to the head of the Mactan Cebu International Airport

Adelberto Yap, chief of the Cebu airport, said he received a letter from Northwest two weeks ago about the latter's interest to mount flights to and from Visayas region.

"Northwest is (considering) a US-Narita-Cebu route. It has expressed interest to use the Cebu airport," Yap said in an interview.

Narita is the airport in Tokyo, Japan, which is usually used as a transit point between the Philippines and the United States.

Yap said the US carrier would send a team to inspect the Cebu airport next month.

"They have to see if we can meet their requirements," he pointed out.

Northwest flies daily from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to the United States via Tokyo.

Yap said Cargo carrier Trans Global Airlines had also asked for a permit to mount flights from the Mactan airport.

Next month, South Korean carriers are launching flights to Cebu to take advantage of the strong interest among Koreans to travel and explore the Visayas.

Asiana Airlines will mount four weekly flights from Cebu to Incheon, South Korea, starting July 13, while Korean Air will fly twice a week to Cebu starting July 18.

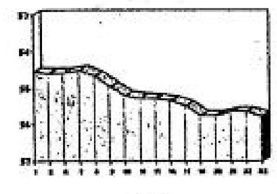
South Korea recorded a 25-percent increase in tourist arrivals in March and 41 percent in April, surpassing Japan as the top Asian market of the Philippines.

Yap said the Cebu hub had been catering to other foreign airlines as well.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.650 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 24, 2005

¥ 109.22 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., June 24, 2005

GOLD: $442.90-443.40

per ounce Hong Kong, June 24, 2005

STOCK MARKET

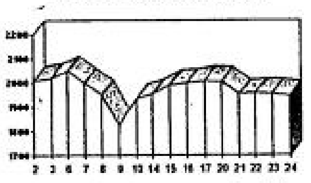
Shares down 0.41%

SHARE prices closed 0.41 percent lower yesterday, with sentiment under pressure as oil prices hit record highs and the military went on alert ahead of expected street protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo, dealers said.

Many investors stayed on the sidelines ahead of the protests over the weekend by opposition groups seeking to oust President Arroyo following allegations of vote rigging and corruption against her and her family.

AFP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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Please take notice that our client, Audi AG of Germany (Audi), issued a **notice of termination** of the agreement on the sale of Audi products between Auto Prominence Corporation and Audi effective **March 31, 2005**.

Audi continues to recognize all its warranties. Audi car owners and the public are advised to contact the **new Audi authorized distributor / service provider in the Philippines, PGA Cars, Inc.**, for sales and service requirements, at 201 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

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US firm buys ₱11.9B worth of UCPB loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank sold last Thursday P11.9 billion worth of bad loans to an affiliate of Amroc Investments Asia, one of the largest privately owned distressed debt trading and investment management firms in the United States.

In an interview during a JP Morgan cocktail reception Thursday night, UCPB president Jose Querubin said the sale of the bad loans to Avenue Capital Management Asia was completed using the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

The deal cut the bank's NPLs to P6 billion from P18 billion.

By the end of the year, the NPL burden was seen further easing to about P3 billion with the bank's retail property auctions.

If the SPV Law which expired last April would be revived by Congess, Querubin said UCPB would work next on trimming some P22 billion worth of real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoas), as an earlier wholesale deal with a Korean firm fell through.

UCPB earlier agreed to sell P13.6 billion worth of idle property to a unit of Korean investment management firm Shinhan M&A, but this was not consummated.

"The Koreans couldn't come up with the money," Querubin said.

The SPV Law is aimed at helping banks get rid of their non-performing assets by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value-added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by half.

At the same time, Querubin said UCPB was working out an arrangement with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to convert P12 billion of the bank's remaining debt into equity.

The amount represents the remaining debt to PDIC under a rehabilitation package given in 2003.

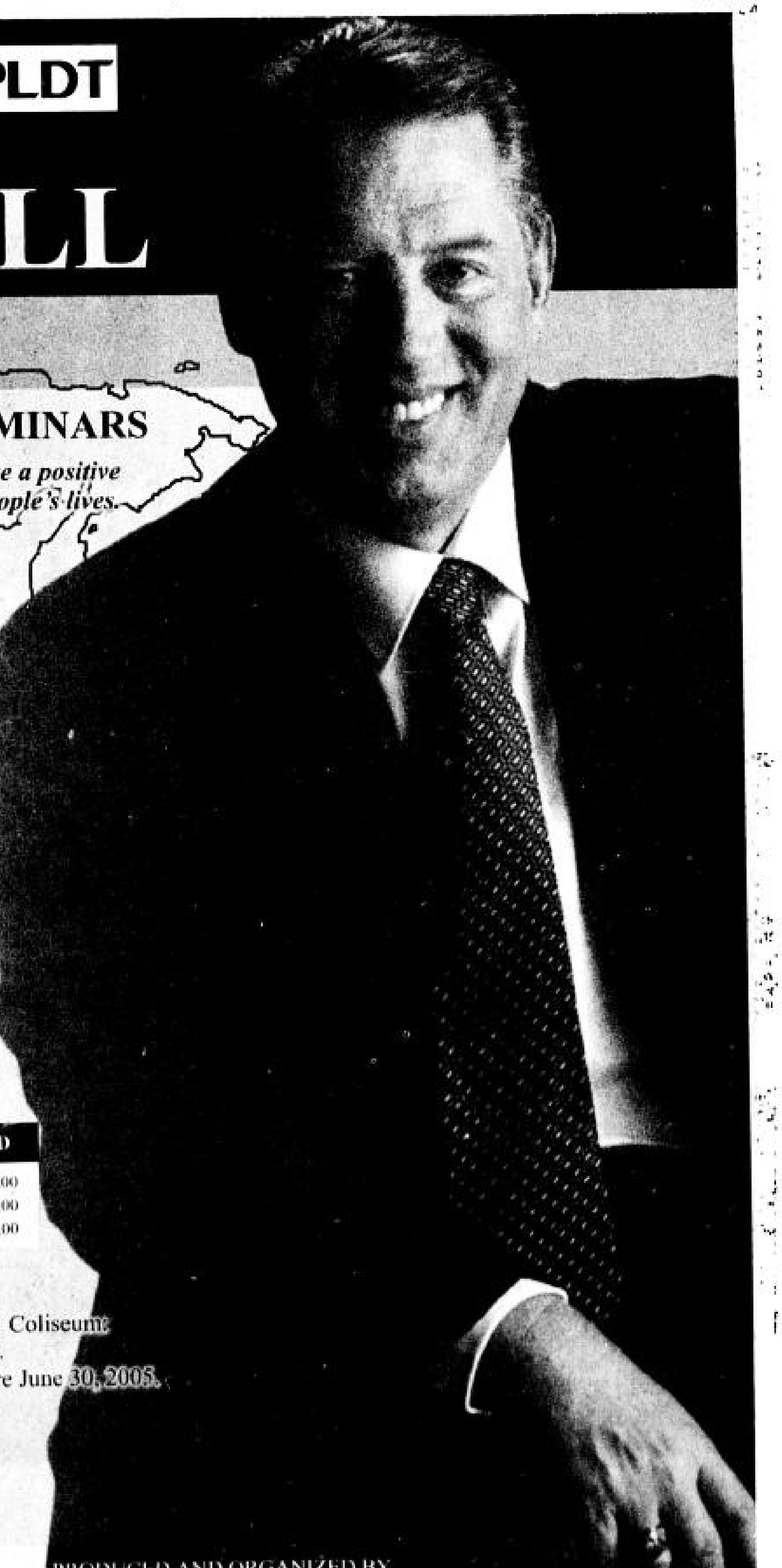
Some P7.5 billion was already settled ahead of target last year.

"We're discussing the terms of conversion. We hope that in the next three months, we can get that settled. We plan to finish this before the end of the year," Querubin said.

TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Triumph International, the world's leader in intimate fashion, marks another coup in the local market by opening the first Pick and Pay Center for its dealers and business partners and the new Product Showroom on June 25. The opening of the new concept shop will coincide with the celebration of Triumph Direct Sales 15th year presence in the Philippines. The Pick and Pay Center, which is located at the Triumph main office in Makati, will serve as the shopping center for the thousands of dealers engaged in direct sales for the company, while the Product Showroom will showcase the latest trends and innovations of Triumph's world class products.

ADVT



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Friday, July 22, 2005, 6:00PM to 9:30PM, Araneta Coliseum

SEAT CATEGORY	PRICE IN PHP	PRICE IN USD
Patron VIP	PHP 3,500.00	US$ 64.00
Patron	PHP 2,500.00	US$ 46.00
Lower Box VIP	PHP 2,500.00	US$ 46.00
Lower Box	PHP 1,500.00	US$ 28.00
Upper Box A	PHP 1,250.00	US$ 23.00
Upper Box B	PHP 700.00	US$ 13.00
General Admission	PHP 300.00	US$ 6.00

DEVELOPING THE LEADERS AROUND YOU
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 8:00AM to 12:00NN,
ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

CATEGORY	PRICE IN PHP	PRICE IN USD
VIP 1	PHP 5,500.00	US$ 100.00
VIP 2	PHP 4,500.00	US$ 82.00
Patron	PHP 3,500.00	US$ 64.00

WINNING WITH PEOPLE
Saturday, July 23, 2005, 1:30PM to 5:30PM,
ALIW Theater, CCP Complex

CATEGORY	PRICE IN PHP	PRICE IN USD
VIP 1	PHP 5,500.00	US$ 100.00
VIP 2	PHP 4,500.00	US$ 82.00
Patron	PHP 3,500.00	US$ 64.00

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GROUP RATES: **10% DISCOUNT** for groups of ten (10) people in one seating category. Valid on or before June 30, 2005.
For ALIW Theater Seminars : **15% DISCOUNT** for whole-day buyers.

For inquiries and ticket reservations, please visit **johnmaxwell.emjen.org** or call **885-7049** (free delivery). Tickets are also available at all **SM-Ticketnet** outlets located at the SM Department Store Customer Service area and at the Araneta Coliseum ticket booths. For inquiries and reservations, please call **911-5555**.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 24, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	1,445,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	620,100
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	50
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	110,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49.5	50	19,800
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	4,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	29.5	561,300
Philippine National Bank	42	42	42	42	22,900
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	20,000
Security Bank Corp.	25	25	25	25	97,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	29	28.5	29	50,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2680	2680	2680	2680	250
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	62,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	142	142	142	142	10,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1835	1850	1835	1845	2,810
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	60,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	668,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	795	805	55,300
Ipeople Inc.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.9	183,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,406,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1620	1635	1615	1630	266,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	10,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	4,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	100,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	929,000
Petron Corp.	3.05	3.1	3	3	5,086,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	80,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	14,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.6	1.48	1.6	51,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	7,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	275,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.55	0.55	490,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	178,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29	29	29	105,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	46,000
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92	92	92	65,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16	16.5	437,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	23,000,000
Ayala Corp.	330	330	325	327.5	48,920
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.5	2,250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	1,294,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	1.96	2	382,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.6	0.6	1,140,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	3,866,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	70,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.2	400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	990,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.55	2,598,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.033	2,800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	200,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.5	979,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46.5	46.5	45.5	45.5	188,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	300,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	663,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	2,098,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	2,810,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	410,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	216,490
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	150,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	2,660,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	4,150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	624,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	45,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	6,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11	11	10.75	10.75	310,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.1	7.9	8	31,238,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,700,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	3,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.42	1.44	8,407,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	110,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	160,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	2,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	5,738,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.5	1,108,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	3,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	6,130,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	83,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	115,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.93	1,110,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	1,978,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	28	28	656,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	2,150,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	550,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.37	0.34	0.35	1,020,000

DISCLOSURES

ORION Brands International executed a deed of assignment with Dynamic Source Group Limited, by virtue of which it got all of the latter's rights, title and interest in the loan to Lepanto Ceramics Inc.

***

FAR Eastern University Inc. appointed chief financial officer Fe Canilao as investor relations program officer.

***

SOLID Group Inc. approved the incorporation of a new wholly owned subsidiary, to be known tentatively as Zen Towers Corp., to undertake a tri-tower residential condominium project in a property at Ermita, Manila. Zen Towers Corp. will acquire the said property from Solid Manila Corp., another subsidiary. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 23, 2005

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.824334	1.000000	55.6300
Japan	Yen	0.007578	0.009193	0.5114
United Kingdom	Pound	1.502267	1.822400	101.3801
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106106	0.128717	7.1605
Switzerland	Franc	0.648418	0.786596	43.7583
Canada	Dollar	0.667856	0.810176	45.0701
Singapore	Dollar	0.493318	0.598444	33.2914
Australia	Dollar	0.640758	0.777303	43.2414
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.186854	2.652872	147.5793
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219817	0.266660	14.8343
Brunei	Dollar	0.491847	0.596659	33.1921
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020030	0.024298	1.3517
UAE	Dirham	0.224443	0.272272	15.1465
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.213100	67.4848
Argentina	Peso	0.287977	0.349345	19.4341
Brazil	Real	0.347454	0.421496	23.4478
Denmark	Kroner	0.134274	0.162888	9.0615
India	Rupee	0.018972	0.023015	1.2803
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216959	0.263193	14.6414
Mexico	New Peso	0.076600	0.092924	5.1694
New Zealand	Dollar	0.589315	0.714898	39.7698
Norway	Kroner	0.126910	0.153955	8.5645
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013806	0.016748	0.9317
South Africa	Rand	0.122532	0.148644	8.2691
Korea	Won	0.000816	0.000990	0.0551
Sweden	Kroner	0.107153	0.129987	7.2312
Syria	Pound	0.015880	0.019264	1.0717
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026282	0.031883	1.7737
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0259

Jollibee eyes wider Asian reach

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FAST FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. is venturing farther out in Asia, hoping to expand in India, Indonesia, Vietnam and China over the next few years, JFC chair Tony Tan Caktiong told the INQUIRER.

JFC is set to open its second Chowking store in Jakarta in July. It wants to add three or four more outlets of the popular Chinese fast food chain in Indonesia.

JFC is also studying the fast food market in Vietnam. The firm still has to reveal which fast food brand it plans to open in Vietnam.

According to Tan Caktiong, JFC may open a Chowking store in India sometime next year.

"We are exploring India for Chowking because they like Chinese food," Tan Caktiong said in a recently held cocktail event. "We might spice it up a little or add more vegetables because most of the Indians are vegetarians."

He also said that JFC is looking at acquiring one or two stores in China other than the Yonghe King brand, JFC's recently acquired fast food chain in China.

Ysmael Baysa, JFC chief finance officer, yesterday said after the company's stockholders' meeting that JFC would be spending roughly P200 million for its expansion into foreign markets this year.

Total capital expenses for this year for both overseas and nationwide expansion is pegged at P1.5 billion largely on the opening of 80 to 100 stores covering different JFC food brands.

Tan Caktiong also said that JFC might have to slightly raise the prices of its products this year due to the surge in power rates and other costs.

Although same store sales for JFC is growing at a rate of 14 percent in the first quarter, revenues for this year may not hit double-digit growth.

Last year's earnings, which hit P1.57 billion, was boosted by consumer spending.

Baysa earlier said that earnings growth this year is expected at between 8 to 10 percent.

In the first quarter, JFC's net earnings dipped 6.2 percent to P358.3 million from P382.1 million in the same period last year dragged by higher costs of operations.

Jollibee operates a total of 1,072 stores in the Philippines. It opened a total of 23 stores in the first quarter. It also operates 119 stores outside the country, mostly in China.

Congress urged to clear up law on tax incentives

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance wants Congress to fast-track the passage of a law that will clearly spell out the tax incentives for locators in Clark and other economic zones.

The DOF's call for a law stating that Clark and other economic zone locators are entitled to tax and duty-free perks came after the Supreme Court lifted the tax incentives of the Camp John Hay Development Corp.

In its decision, the high court said CJHDevCo was not entitled to incentives because Republic Act No. 7227, which grants tax and duty-free privileges to locators, only covers those in Subic.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said the SC ruling could put into question the legality of granting tax incentives to locators of other economic zones, therefore a clear law on tax incentives should immediately be passed.

For the meantime, the DOF would stick to the status quo and allow locators to avail themselves of incentives, Bonoan said. *Michelle V. Remo*

JP Morgan expands in RP

From page B1

portunities in business process outsourcing (BPO) for global operations.

The bank's country chair, Roberto Panlilio, said the call center facility, to be located at the Philam building in Makati, would initially hire 400 and would be expanded to 700 by next year.

Aside from the call center, the Philippine executives brought the bank's senior staff to the country to convince them to transfer other backroom support operations as well, such as accounting and information technology support services.

Meanwhile, Panlilio said JP Morgan's stock brokerage operations would resume operations by July or August, after recently getting a new license from the Philippine Stock Exchange.

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Microsoft

YOU MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO STUDY THE TCO OF WINDOWS AND "FREE SOFTWARE", BUT THE YANKEE GROUP DOES.

"For midsized and large organizations, a significant 'free software' deployment will neither be free nor easily accomplished. In fact, respondents at large organizations reported that a wholesale switch to 'free software' from Windows* or Unix would significantly increase TCO for the foreseeable future."

—Laura DiDio, The Yankee Group, April 2004
"Free Software", Unix, and Windows TCO Comparison

The Yankee Group, a global research and consulting firm, concluded that a significant switch to "free software" from Windows or Unix could cost three to four times as much without delivering tangibly better performance or business value. These findings are based on a non-sponsored worldwide survey of 1,000 IT administrators and C-level executives in midsized and large enterprises.

To get the full study, visit **microsoft.com/getthefacts**

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Microsoft Windows Server System

OIL WE NEED TO KNOW

Text and art by Lynett A. Villariba

Fat Facts I

Nutritionists recommend that we get 30% of our calories from dietary fats and oils that (1) lubricate our joints and intestines, (2) strengthen cell membranes, (3) nourish the skin, and (4) restore fat-soluble nutrients to the tissues.

Fatty acids are individual fat molecules whose length of carbon chain determine the oil's health properties. **Medium chain** fatty acids are more soluble and not stored as fats the way **long-chain** fatty acids are.

Saturation of hydrogen atoms gives oil stability and shelf life. Oxygen, heat and light cause **unsaturated** oils to (1) turn rancid, (2) form trans fats, (3) create free radicals.

Vegetable oils, as defined by the US food oil industry, exclude saturated tropical oils like coconut, palm and palm kernel along with saturated animal fats.

Processed food producers have long held consumers' health in their hands. Amid fat fear and high heart risks, independent nutritional biochemists help consumers sift the raw truths from the big fat lies in five ways. The first is on the biggest food-processing disaster in US history:

20-50%
Trans Fats
in
Hydrogenated oil

Hydrogen alteration converts the chemical structure of unsaturated carbon bonds in margarines and shortenings to "trans" position, which is alien to the human body. These "trans" fat molecules weaken cell walls, disrupt normal cell function that people should avoid eating them in any amount.

Chemically altered

In the 1900s, chemists found a way to make liquid unsaturated oils more solid and saturated so they can be made as an ingredient for candles, and later as a substitute for lard that is shortening.

Adding coal-tar dyes and chemical flavorings to the shortening produced an imitation butter called margarine.

Later in the 1940s, partially hydrogenating polyunsaturated oils (soybean, corn or safflower) made margarines softer and spreadable, cookies crunchier and cakes moist.

FASTFOOD FRIED IN HYDROGENATED VEGETABLE OIL

94 years in the food system

Since crystallized cottonseed oil **shortening** was launched as Crisco in 1911, hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated vegetable oil has been in many **processed food** and **bakery** products. Virtually every imported **processed chips** and **fritters** contain hydrogenated shortening. So do most **cake mixes**, **cookies** and **snacks**. Even as local foods use hydrogenated saturated oils in their ingredients, a small amount of trans fats is found in their unsaturated fatty acids.

PROCESSED SNACKS

Found artery-clogging

In the 1980s, fats and oils researcher Dr. Mary Enig found that partial hydrogenation of unsaturated oils were producing trans fats as high as 40% (soybean) and 50% (canola).

By 2002, the (US) Institute of Medicine declared that there is no safe level on trans fats and that people eat as little of it as possible. Consequently, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans has recommended to "keep trans fat consumption as low as possible."

Trans fats adversely affects the heart. Harvard researches (1990-1997) found that trans fats (1) lower the good cholesterol and raise the bad cholesterol, (2) cause the tissues to lose the essential omega-3 fatty acids beneficial to the heart, and (3) increase C-reactive protein in the body that causes arterial inflammation, and (4) make the arteries more rigid, causing artery clogging.

Trans fats increase the risk of cancer University of Maryland study in the 1980s found that they (1) alter enzymes that neutralize carcinogens and (2) increase enzymes that potentiate carcinogens, and (3) interfere with immune system function. European researchers in 1995 found (4) positive correlation between breast cancer rates and trans fat consumption.

Trans fats intake increase diabetes risk In 2003, the Danish Nutrition Council confirmed the same University of Maryland findings that trans fatty acids (1) inhibit insulin binding and (2) increase the risk of Type-2 diabetes.

SOURCES: Mary Enig, PhD, "The Oiling of America"/ Raymond Peat, PhD, "Food Loaded with Real Health Benefits"/ Bruce Fife, ND, "Eat Fat, Look Thin"

Earth-like planet found beyond solar system

WASHINGTON—A small, Earth-like planet has been discovered beyond our solar system orbiting a star like the sun, according to a team of US astronomers.

The team of excited astronomers announced that the planet is the most Earth-like found so far outside the solar system, although its surface would be far too hot for humans to live on.

"We keep pushing the limits of what we can detect, and we're getting closer and closer to finding Earths," team member Steven Vogt, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, said in a statement released on Monday.

"Today's results are an important step toward answering one of the most profound questions that mankind can ask: Are we alone in the universe?" said Michael Turner, head of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation.

15 light years away

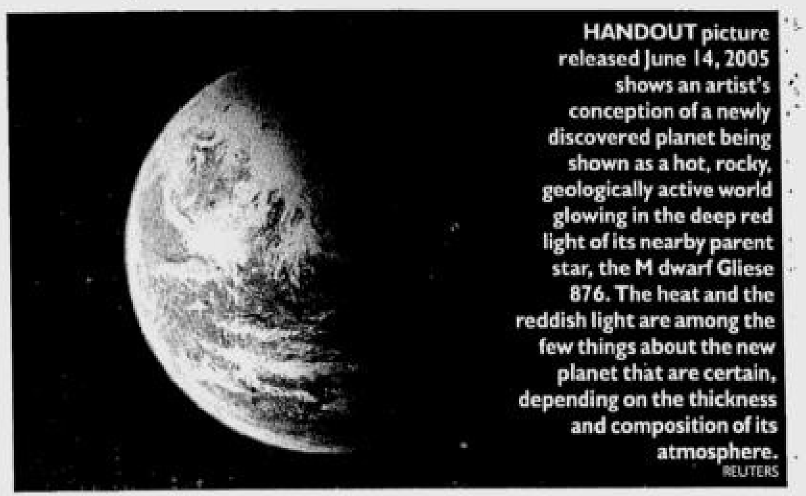
The astronomers said the new planet is about seven-and-a-half times the size of Earth, with about twice its radius. They believe it may be the first rocky planet ever found orbiting a normal star not much different from the sun.

The newly discovered "super-Earth" orbits the star Gliese 876, located 15 light years from the Earth in the direction of the constellation Aquarius.

The star also possesses two larger, Jupiter-size planets. The new planet orbits the star in two Earth days.

The planet is so close to the star's surface that its temperature probably tops 200 to 400 degrees Celsius, the astronomers said, adding such "oven-like" temperatures would be far too hot for humans.

Nevertheless, the ability to detect the tiny wobble that the planet induces in the star gives astronomers confidence that they will be able to detect even smaller rocky planets in orbits more hospitable to life. *AFP*


HANDOUT picture released June 14, 2005 shows an artist's conception of a newly discovered planet being shown as a hot, rocky, geologically active world glowing in the deep red light of its nearby parent star, the M dwarf Gliese 876. The heat and the reddish light are among the few things about the new planet that are certain, depending on the thickness and composition of its atmosphere. REUTERS

Obesity, smoking speed up aging

LONDON—Obesity and smoking speed up aging, researchers said.

They showed that people who smoke cigarettes or are obese have shorter telomeres, the caps on chromosomes that prevent them from fraying, which makes them biologically older than their nonsmoking, leaner counterparts.

"Our findings suggest that obesity and cigarette smoking accelerate human aging," said Dr. Tim Spector, of St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

Telomeres shorten each time a cell divides. The loss is associated with aging, which is why telomeres are thought to hold the secrets of youth and the aging process.

As telomeres get smaller, the chromosomes can become unstable and increase the risk of mutation.

Oxidative stress

"Obesity and cigarettes cause oxidative stress to increase and this cumulative damage over time causes the loss of these telomeres, which we believe is a marker of accelerative aging and accounts for why these people get heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and other age-related disease," Spector said.

Oxidative stress is damage to cells and DNA caused by free radicals—charged particles found in the environment and produced by processes in the body.

Spector and scientists at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey compared telomere length from blood samples of 1,122 British women between the ages of 18 and 76.

Nearly 120 of them were obese, 531 had never smoked, 203 were smokers and 369 had quit. The research is published in The Lancet medical journal.

The scientists found a decrease in telomere length that corresponded to the more obese the women were and the amount of cigarettes they had smoked.

There was a difference between being obese and lean which corresponded to 8.8 years of aging. Being a current or exsmoker equated to about 4.6 years and smoking a pack a day for 40 years corresponded to 7.4 years of aging.

"Our results emphasize the potential wide-ranging effects of the two most important preventable exposures in developed countries—cigarettes and obesity," the researchers said in the journal.

Obesity, which affects about 300 million people worldwide, increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, stroke and other illnesses.

Researchers have shown that cigarette smokers die on average 10 years earlier than nonsmokers but that kicking the habit can halve the risk. Smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. It also increases the risk of heart disease. *Reuters*

RP team places second in Elementary Int'l Math Fest

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

INSTEAD of talking about sub-standard textbooks, poorly trained teachers, and insufficient classrooms, let us start this schoolyear by focusing on the good news. Last May, at the Philippine Elementary Mathematics International Competition (Pemic) in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, our Philippine team made up of Aileen Giselle Chua (Grade 6, Grace Christian High School), Carmella Antoinette Lao (Grade 4, St. Jude Catholic School), Dann Julius Tan (Grade 6, Chiang Kai Shek College), and Vance Mikhail Uy (Grade 6, St. Jude Catholic School), emerged second place overall. The Hong Kong District team was first, and the Sofia, Bulgaria team third.

Chua bagged a gold medal in the individual competition, after earning a perfect score in the 15-problem exam. Lao, Tan and Uy earned silver medallions in the individual competition.

Five other members of the Philippine delegation won gold medals: Earl John Chua (Grade 6, Grace Christian High School), Marquis Alexander Tan (Grade 6, Xavier School), Rafael Perea (Grade 6, Camarin Elementary School), Aldric Cristoval Reyes (Grade 5, Chiang Kai Shek College), and John Simeon (Grade 6, Aurora Quezon Elementary School).

Other Filipino students also did well, earning a grand total of 16 gold, 36 silver, 36 bronze, and 45 merit awards.

In the team competition, Perea, Simeon, Victorio Vicher (Grade 6, San Antonio Elementary School), and Kevin Yambao (Grade 6, Pateros Elementary School) also brought home gold medals. In all, our talented youth earned five gold, 10 silver and 15 bronze medals in the team category.

The team of Raymond Joseph Alibutud, Rigel Stewart Espiritu (Grade 6, San Beda College, Alabang), Darwin Ivan Carrasco (Grade 5, Pamplona Elementary School), Immanuel Encarnacion (Grade 5, Colegio San Agustin, Biñan) placed first in the Puzzle Competition, an important side event in international math competitions.

11 countries

In the Pemic, 168 elementary students from 11 countries (Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines) matched wits. Our delegation was composed of 66 Filipino youth, with a combined China-Philippines friendship team.

At the same time, their high school counterparts also competed in the Asia Intercities Teenagers' Mathematics Olympiad (AITMO). A total of 124 students from six countries (China, Hong Kong, India, South Africa, Taiwan and the Philippines) competed in the AITMO, with our country represented by 52 high school math wizards from 13 regions.

Unsurprisingly, China dominated the high school competition, bagging first, second and third places overall.

However, one of our teams, made up of John Henri Ma (4th year, Trinity Christian School, Bacolod), Alvin Belleza (3rd year, Ateneo de Manila High School), Kyna Elyse Cheu (3rd year, Sacred Heart School-Jesuit) and Emmanuel Lance Plan (3rd year, Ateneo de Manila High School) got a gold medal, emerging fourth place overall. Two other teams got silver and four got bronze.

In the individual competition, Ma and Chiara Rosario Lanuza (1st year, Philippine Science High School) got gold medals, and their Filipino peers received five silver, 11 bronze and 26 merit awards.

Our delegates also did commendably well in the Third SEAMEO Math Olympiad last May in Penang, Malaysia, where the 10 member countries of SEAMEO (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines) competed.

Ma won silver and John Garret Go (St. Stephen's High School) bronze in the individual category. With the help of Nellie Margaret Chua (Chiang Kai Shek College) and Abigail Ceralde (Zamboaga Chong Hua High School), the team placed fourth overall.

These students were all extensively coached by the Mathematics Trainers' Guild (MTG). Reflecting on this success, guild president Simon L. Chua believes that hosting international math events gives our gifted indigent elementary and high school students the best opportunity to compete at the international level.

MTG hosted both the PEMIC and the AITMO, with the help of the Science Education Institute of the DOST and the Department of Education.

Congratulations to our talented youth, and may others be inspired to work for honor not just for themselves and their schools, but for our country as well.

(Next week: Contest questions)

New type of mouth rinse now in Philippines

By Charles E. Buban

"THE QUALITY of your life is directly linked to the status of your oral health." This is the overriding message Dr. Wil Coronado wants the Filipino public to know from the formula he brought in to the country and which is now used by Pascual Laboratories in one of its oral care products.

A few years ago, the Filipino-American doctor discovered how to stabilize chlorine dioxide (ClO_2), an ingredient that his company, Zinnellé International Inc., has been using in its various health products in the United States.

ClO_2 is a strong oxidizer and one of the most effective sanitizing and antimicrobial agents available in the market today.

"The ClO_2 has been used in water purification for over 50 years and in fact, has been certified safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency. With the process I developed this compound can now be safely and stable enough to be added to certain products like mouth rinses [Pascual Laboratory in partnership with Coronado became the first company in the Philippines to market a mouth rinse containing ClO_2]," shares Coronado.

Coronado says ClO_2 solves many of the problems inherent in other mouth rinses.

"Recent studies have reported that mouth rinses only temporarily mask the odor of bad breath for as little as 10 minutes after brushing. In fact, because they contain alcohol, mouthwashes can actually make the situation worse by drying out the mouth that creates a more hospitable environment for odor-causing bacteria," explains Coronado.

He adds that ClO_2 does not leave burning sensation typical to alcohol-based mouth rinses.

Effective vs bad breath

Mouth rinses containing ClO_2, says Coronado, have proven very effective in combating bad breath.

"This type of mouth rinses do not mask bad breath odor. Instead, the ClO_2 directly attacks the volatile sulfur compounds (VSCs), which produce the foul smell in the breath," he explains.

Coronado reveals that there are over 170 different types of bacteria living in the mouth.

"These bacteria feed on bits of food left on our teeth and tongue after meals. While feasting on these 'leftovers,' bacteria produce the VSCs," reveals Coronado.

Coronado also reveals that majority of these bacteria are anaerobic (cannot live in the presence of oxygen) so these bacteria hide in places where oxygen cannot reach—under plaque and food debris, in the spaces between the teeth and gums, and in the deep crevices of the tongue.

"This is why ClO_2 containing mouth rinse is very important since they have oxydizing property that effectively kills these bacteria hiding in difficult-to-reach places of the mouth," says Coronado.

However, Coronado adds that brushing and flossing is still important and when combined with gargling ClO_2 containing mouth rinse, this regimen serves a very effective approach in maintaining a healthy mouth," he suggests.

Letting doctors, medicine, exercise help you lose weight

By Tessa R. Salazar

OBESITY, or even just being overweight, increases one's risk of suffering from hypertension, type II diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea and other respiratory problems.

One in every four adults is overweight, according to the 2003 nutrition survey of the Food and Nutrition Institute's Nutritional Assessment and Monitoring Division. The 1998 survey, in comparison, showed one overweight person for every five. Females aged 40 to 59 years have been identified as the most prone to being overweight and obese.

Now the medical field is undertaking a multiangled attempt at curbing the rise of incidence of obesity in the Philippines.

3-point treatment regimen

A three-point treatment regimen combining prescription medicine, exercise and dietary interventions with guidance from doctors who specialize in obesity, weight loss and management recently chose participants for its program.

"Red Treatment" is an Abbott Laboratories' program that means Rx or doctor-prescribed medication, Exercise and Diet. Twenty participants who fit the criteria determined by doctors were presented to the press on May 26.

Four police officers, who underwent the Red Treatment with 104 other PNP volunteers since Feb. 14, were also among those shown to the press. PO1 Michelle Orcullo achieved the highest weight loss of 31 pounds. From 165 pounds, she weighed in at 134 pounds at the press presentation.

Participants chosen were 18 to 65 years old, had attempted previously to lose and maintain weight through doctor's consultation, exercise and diet. They should also have had a BMI (body mass index) of at least 27 kg/m2 and were strong candidates for hypertension, diabetes or dyslipidemia.

New set of participants

The new set of participants who started the treatment in May and which ends in August are a businesswoman, a student, a farming trainer, an occupational therapist, a housewife, a teacher, a retired employee and a dentist.

Dr. Betty Talaver, oncologist for Cebu Doctor's Hospital, is one of the motivators and currently undergoing the Red Treatment program.

"I am enrolled in an exercise salon. This is recorded because they are giving us drugs. When we reduce, we have to see to it the drugs that we take are doctor-prescribed," Talaver explained.

Talaver narrated that all her life she was on the "heavy" side. She delivered her two children through the ceasarian section. From the time she delivered, her body began to change. She was never able to lose weight anymore.

For every child she delivered, she gained 20 pounds. From 125 pounds, she reached 165. Talaver became sedentary and often felt sleepy.

"I've gone through other tablets, I've gone through several diets, intensive exercises for one month and then I lose weight. Then the "yoyo" phenomenon happened. You lose weight, and you let go. You're back to your old weight again."

Fitness First

Talaver is now enrolled at a Fitness First program, of which her exercise regimen is now part of the routine for the next three months. A dietitian guides her daily food intake.

"We're given a booklet that tells us how much calories we're supposed to take. I'm assigned a maximum limit of 1,600 calories. Before we started they got our ECG (electrocardiogram) and blood chemistry. Then they measured the areas of our body and our body mass index."

Talaver said she has learned that if she wanted to lose weight, she would have to maintain the weight that she lost for six months.

"That (new weight) registers in the mind, and the body will be attuned to that perfect weight. If you want to lose some more, you lose weight again and you maintain it for six months again," she said.

She added that she now strives hard to be an "intelligent" and not an "emotional" eater. She said there is always the danger of giving in to dietary temptations.

"But if you take your capsule it modifies your eating behavior. If I take the (drugs), I have more control of my appetite. My attraction for food lessens."

The hotline for assessment in this program is toll-free 1-800-100-10-20-30. Interested individuals will undergo nutritionists' interview, and are subject for recommendation for doctors' consultation.

A funny thing happened on the way to the (scientific) forum

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

I HAVE learned to live with my allergic rhinitis for quite a long time I can't even remember since when. Generally it's mild and I can get by without medications. Just a few sniffles and nasal itchiness upon waking up in the morning and I'm fine the rest of the day.

Every year though, I would have one to two episodes of severe allergic rhinitis. And when it happens, my world literally grinds to a halt as my nose drips ounces of clear mucus and my eyes, itchy as my nose, puff and do its generous share of dripping tears.

I know a severe allergic rhinitis episode is imminent the moment I have incessant sneezing and lacrimation. I know it's time to drop whatever I'm doing, take my antihistamines and sleep through the allergic "storm" in the next 24 to 48 hours after which I should be back in shape.

Worse timing

I have gotten quite used to these infrequent attacks. But its timing could not have been any worse than earlier this week. I had to chair a scientific forum in Milan on the first day I had the attack. And the following day, our generous host has prearranged a side trip to Venice which could no longer be reset.

I took the maximum allowable dose of antihistamines and decongestants but two hours before the session, I was still sneezing like hell and my eyes and nose were still dripping. So my antihistamine-impaired judgment made me take an extra dose hoping to make me functional in two hours.

It alleviated the runny nose but the extra dose has apparently increased the potential for the drug's side-effects. I felt like I have drunk a whole bottle of wine. And during the presession briefing with the faculty an hour before the session, I was so drowsy I slept in my seat right after my introductory remarks.

I must have slept in my seat for about 40 minutes when I felt a gentle tapping on my shoulder. It was Prof. Aldo Maggioni waking me up and he told me the session was ready to start in the adjoining hall. I was so embarrassed especially when another panelist teased me later on that they had to tone down their voices during the briefing so as not to disturb my sleep, and it took quite an effort by the famous Italian professor to wake me up.

Enough energy

But the nap and the kind understanding of the symposium faculty helped save the situation for me in the next two hours of the scientific session. It gave me barely enough energy to last the next two hours. I still had a runny nose and I was sneezing every now and then but not as scandalously as I was two hours earlier. My responses in moderating the panel discussion were somewhat sluggish, another antihistamine side effect. It was certainly not one of the noteworthy chairing tasks I have done but thanks to the excellent faculty and the active participation of the audience which included Filipino delegates Drs. Jorge Sison, Ric Rangel and Zenon Yu, the discussion was lively and the forum was deemed successful by the organizers, but I think it was in spite of me.

Less than an hour after the session, my allergic rhinitis worsened again but better judgment prevailed on me not to take an additional dose of antihistamine. I had already taken more than the maximum allowable daily dose.

Back in the hotel, I tried to get some sleep in between my fits of sneezing. My wife Becky didn't sleep well during the night, too worried about me and checking on me from time to time. We had to drag ourselves out of bed early the following morning for our trip to Venice.

Romantic comedy

Nothing could be more wasteful than being in such a lovely and romantic place as Venice but feeling too sick to enjoy it. Our hosts arranged for us a gondola boat ride complete with an accordion player and a baritone singer serenading us continuously during the one-hour leisurely cruise along the canals of Venice. It must have cost our hosts quite a sum. It would have been a perfect romantic moment for Becky and me, and I kept on blaming my allergic rhinitis for spoiling the fun and romance.

I had to make an effort to prop myself up on my seat during the ride and every time I did, the relatively unstable gondola would tip to one side and the boatman would frantically remind me to refrain from moving. Even the two musicians serenading us would hasten to balance the boat by shifting their weights every time I moved. It was a romantic comedy of sorts.

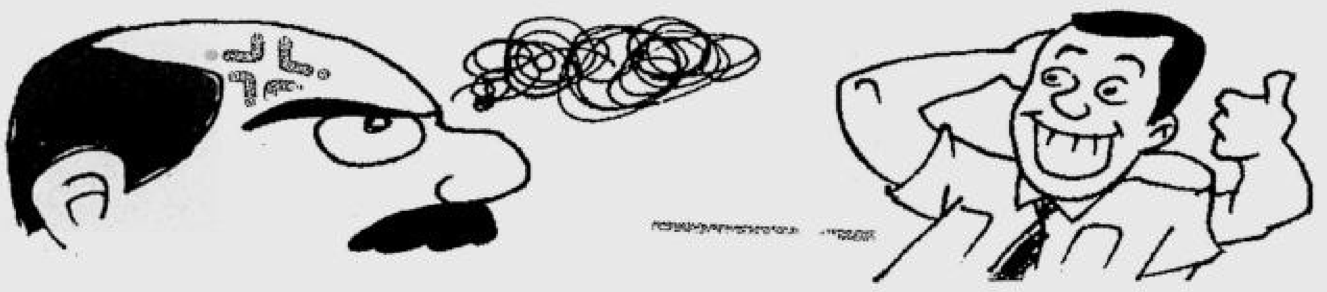
Just like in my previous attacks, I started to feel better on the third day. Given some time and provided our immune system is good, our body develops antibodies and reacts with other protective or defense mechanisms to overcome the allergen, the substance which has triggered the severe allergic reaction.

Emergency kit

But relying alone on our immune system is not sufficient. Any form of allergy, especially allergic rhinitis and bronchial asthma, can be potentially life-threatening if it causes severe spasm of the respiratory airways. The patient can also go into an allergic shock called anaphylaxis. Prompt administration of medicines can be life saving in the event of such emergency.

For those with any form of allergy, they should always have the following in their carry-along bags when they travel: antihistamine preparation which they have tried previously and was effective for them, and injectable steroids and epinephrine. The epinephrine comes in ready-to-inject kits. Every time one travels, one should make sure that the drugs in his emergency kit are not yet expired.

Chances are, one will not need to use his emergency kit. But in case he does, the small effort of carrying the kit in his travel bag is certainly worth it immeasurably.



'Why they don't get it'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

A FRIEND notorious for sleeping until the early afternoon promises to meet you at the crack of dawn. You simply respond by saying, "Right, of course you will." Your friend smiles back at your positive attitude, leaving you wondering how s/he just didn't understand that you were being sarcastic.

Researchers at the University of Haifa recently looked into the neurological basis of sarcasm. Led by neuropsychologist Simone Shamay-Tsoory, their findings appeared in the May issue of the journal Neuropsychology.

Form of irony

Sarcasm is a form of irony that is used as a means of criticizing a situation by pointing out the difference between what was expected and what actually happened. To appreciate such a comment, the listener must be able to infer the speaker's attitude and the true meaning of his words.

Previous studies had shown that the right hemisphere plays a role in understanding conversations and appreciating humor. Other studies have demonstrated that the frontal lobe of the brain affects how one understands a sarcastic statement. None of these studies, however, have thus far identified just how sarcasm is processed by the human brain and which areas of the brain are specifically involved.

2 sets of tests

To understand how sarcasm is processed by the brain, Shamay-Tsoory et al. recruited 25 people with frontal brain lesions, 16 people with posterior brain lesions and 17 healthy individuals to act as controls. They then conducted two sets of tests on the participants.

The first set of experiments looked at the participants' understanding of sarcasm. Each participant was asked to listen to 10 sets of prerecorded dialogues. One version of the dialogue was read by actors to imply a positive. The example Shamay-Tsoory et al. give is of an employee coming into the office and starting working. His boss comes along and says, "Don't work too hard!"

The sarcastic version of the above dialogue has an employee coming into the office and sitting down to rest. His boss comes along and says, "Don't work too hard!" After listening to each dialogue, the participants were asked questions to prove that they understood the story and that they could identify the attitude of the boss.

Second set of tests

The second set of experiments Shamay-Tsoory et al. conducted looked at the participants' social cognition skills. The first test looked at how well the participants could identify social faux pas. Specifically, they asked if the speaker in the story made comments without regard for whether or not the listener wanted to hear it or would be hurt by the statement. Each participant was asked to listen to another 10 pairs of stories, half of which contained social faux pas.

The next two tests involved identifying the emotions involved. In the second test, participants were shown pictures of several emotions and asked to identify each one. For the third test, participants heard a single sentence uttered in a variety of emotional states and were asked to identify the emotions involved.

The researchers found that the control group and those with posterior brain lesions understood the stories and had no problems identifying the attitudes of the speakers. However, they also found that of those with prefrontal brain lesions, those whose right ventromedial (VM) areas were damaged had problems identifying sarcasm. The researchers noted that those participants who had the most difficulty with the tests also had the most damaged VM areas.

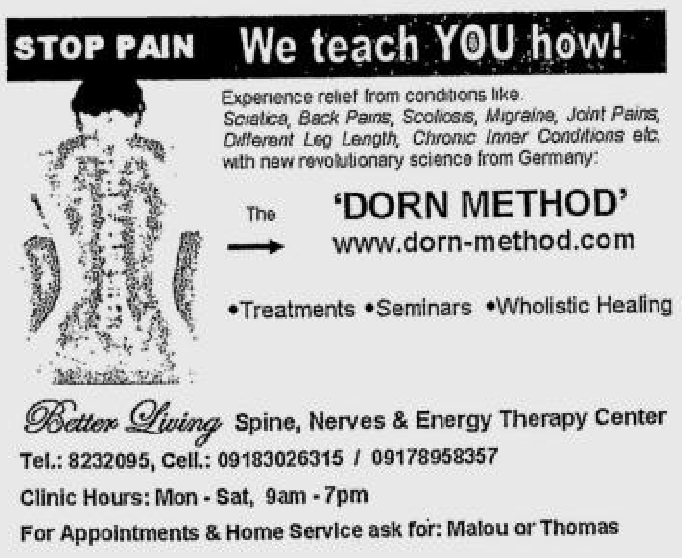
Proposal

Based on their findings, they propose the following neural pathway by which sarcasm is processed: First, the left side of the brain takes in the literal meaning of the statement. Then the frontal lobe and right hemisphere factor in the social and emotional contexts. Finally, the right VM prefrontal area of the brain puts together the statement heard and the social cues to help the listener identify what the speaker really meant.

Sarcasm is a complex language skill, requiring not just the ability to make a witty remark that also acts as an indirect criticism, but the equally important ability to correctly interpret the statement. Given the importance of understanding social cues, Shamay-Tsoory et al. note that their findings could be used to study how personalities are affected by neurodegenerative disorders and injuries to the brain.

Still, a word of caution: though various avenues of research have been opened by the researchers' findings, please resist the urge to ask someone who doesn't understand a sarcastic comment to donate his brain to science for further study.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.



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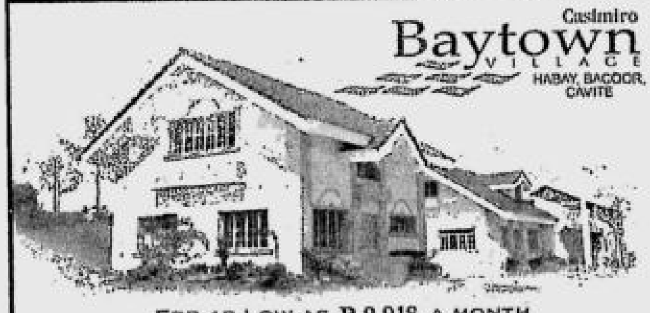

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2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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July 4, 2005
All unredeemed article
from Feb. 1-28, 2005
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors/Stockholders of Philippine Metal Resources Corp. held on Nov. 15, 2004, the Board decided that the Corporation be retired, dissolved and closed for business effective December 31, 2004.

(PDI – June 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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OFFICE STAFF [illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LAND REFORM

Development and Testing of Innovative Approaches for Mainstreaming Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Selected Agrarian Reform Communities Project
(Grant TF053822)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Republic of the Philippines thru the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received grant fund from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) through the World Bank towards the cost of the Development and Testing of Innovative Approaches for Mainstreaming Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Selected Agrarian Reform Communities Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the grant to payments under the contract for consulting services.

The project aims to improve the technical capacity of the project personnel and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in developing and operationalizing methodologies that take into account the indigenous peoples (IP) beneficiary needs in the context of integrated community development. The services of the consultant will include (a) development of effective targeting mechanisms for indigenous peoples (IPs) in mainly mixed IP/non IP communities; (b) design of appropriate incentive systems for Local Government Units (LGus) to mainstream IP concerns in their development planning and subsequent implementation; and (c) preparation of Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPP) in ancestral domain areas and IP community plans for non-ancestral domain areas within ARCDP2 sites.

The Department of Land Reform (DLR) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services: Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualifications (CQ) procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, May 2004.

Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Sub-Appraisal Unit of the ARCDP2 Central Project Office at the address below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday thru Friday.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below not later than 3:00 PM, July 6, 2005.

Mr. Gerundio C. Madueño
Undersecretary, Department of Land Reform
Attn : Mr Adelberto B. Baniqued
CPO-ARCDP2 Chief Technical Advisor
FAPSO Annex Bldg., DLR Compound,
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax (632) 4267367, (632) 4542092
E-mail: wb-arcdp2@wb-arcdp2.ph

(Sgd.) GERUNDIO "KHALIQ" C. MADUEÑO
Undersecretary for SSO/PIO for FAPSO

(PDI – June 25, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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w/pleasing personality w/exp
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Pls. wear proper attire

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LCR FORM 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

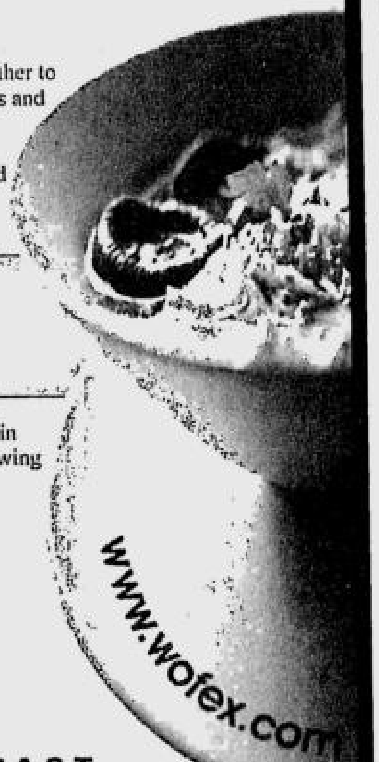
In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that DIOSDADA S. SANCHEZ has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from JOSIE to DIOSDADA in the Certificate of Live Birth of JOSIE BALABA SUICO who was born on March 24, 1961 at Zamboanga City and whose parents are DEMETRIO AYUD SUICO and EVANGELINE DAGAHOYA BALABA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than July 4, 2005.

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – June 25 & July 2, 2005)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
&
WOFEX 2005
WORLD'S FOOD EXPO
August 3-6, 2005 World Trade Center



Greetings from the INQUIRER Classifieds and WOFEX 2005!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and World's Food Expo 2005 are working together to once again come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services in the food and beverage industry.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the World's Food Expo and the country's growing food industry.

WORLD'S FOOD EXPO SUPPLEMENT

This special industry supplement is scheduled for release on August 3, 2005 in line with the opening of WOFEX 2005. We are providing you with the following very special advertising rates :

FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm)	=	P 57,862.50
HALF PAGE AD (23cm x 15cm)	=	P 28,931.25
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ADVERTISING CONTRACT

Yes, we agree to place a __________ page ad in the World's Food Expo Supplement in the amount of P________ .00. We agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG format no later than July 2, 2005.

Name ______________________ Company ______________________
Position ______________ Address ______________________
______________________ Tel. No. ______________ Fax No. ______________
Email ______________ Website ______________ Signature ______________

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **July 20, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila, to all interested rice suppliers for the supply of maximum **185,000 MT**, Long grain white rice, non-iron fortified, 15% and 25% brokens, in fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings to be loaded in bulk carrier/s with an appropriated budget from corporate resources of Php 3.32 B. Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. A maximum of 50,000 MT each shall be awarded in case of Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. origin.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations for all specifications on CFR FO basis, Documents Against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred twenty (120) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and/or countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

Arrival period shall be as follows:

August 31, 2005 – At least 50%
September 30, 2005 – Balance

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last two (2) years (2003/2004) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

SUPPLIER	VOLUME (MT)
Government (with good track record)	150,000
Private (with good track record)	25,000
Government/private (without track record)	15,000

However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2003 are considered to have bad track records and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification. Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the highest value of offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to post a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

List of Eligibility Requirements and instructions to bidders may be secured starting **June 27, 2005** thru MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Chief III, Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr., Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 712-1564; 742-4140; 743-8696; 711-7433; 740-1977; 712-1708; and 712-1572.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will be available from **June 27 to July 15, 2005** (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,500.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **July 7, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Submission of bids will be on **July 20, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Opening of bids will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 25 & July 2, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-98-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Supply and Delivery of Albendazole Tablets, and Fortified Instant Noodles

1. The Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) of the Department of Education (DepED), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

PACKAGE No.	GOODS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT PER PACKAGE
1	Albendazole Tablets	Php 5,900,000.00
2	Fortified Instant Noodles	4,800,000.00
TOTAL		Php 10,700,000.00

Bids received in excess of the approved budget per package shall be rejected. The total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **PHILIPPINE PESOS TEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP10,700,000.00).**

2. The DepED, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the Goods to DepED Warehouse (near Motorpool), DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on June 27, 2005 until July 4, 2005 from the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Three Thousand & 00/100 Only (Php 3,000.00). Information is also available at http:// www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. No. 636-6543 or Fax No. 536-6542.
5. The DepED BAC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 6, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.
6. Bids must be received on or before July 18, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The DepED BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 25 & July 2, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF HDPE LINERS ON THE EXISTING SPRAY TOWER CONCRETE COLLECTING POND AT LGPF UPPER MAHIAO
EDC05-097

The Approved Budget is **P 2,223,490.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 60 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o E.T. Sedornas) starting **June 27, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: **Seven Hundred (P700.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **July 6, 2005, 2:00 P.M.** at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Admin. Complex, Tongonan, Leyte.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, First Floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. on July 26, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – June 25, 2005)

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> *"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live,*
> *Even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
> *John 11:25-26*

In Loving Memory
On the Ninth Death Anniversary of

JUDGE MANUEL K. GRUBA

Formerly of the Court of Tax Appeals

Who passed on to Eternal Life
on June 26, 1996.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Q.C.	All Masses
Mary the Queen Parish, San Juan	9:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.
Santo Domingo Church, Q.C.	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Carmel Shrine, Q.C.	10:00 a.m. 6:15 p.m.
St. Jude Parish San Miguel, Manila	8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Ntra. Sra. Del Perpetual Socorro Parish 2042 Calamba, Manila	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Religious Community of the Augustinian Missionaries of the Philippines P. Noval St., Manila	daily community prayer for nine days June 17-June 26
Our Lady of La Consolation Church Miranila Homes, Quezon City	9:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.

HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REV. GAUDENCIO B. ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

The clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila; bereaved brother & sisters-in-law: **Bonifacio & Norma, Emilia**; sister & brother-in-law: **Ana & Andres**; nieces, nephews, grandchildren, relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. MSGR. ANTONIO QUIAMBAO BENEDICTO

who died on June 21, 2005 at the age of 80.

His body now lies in state in his hometown in Saint Francis Village, Sta. Monica, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, 10:00 A.M., at the National Shrine of Saint Anne, Poblacion, Hagonoy, Bulacan. Interment will follow at the Libingan ng mga Paring taga-Hagonoy, Poblacion, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

VERONIDIA DE GUZMAN-SAN PABLO

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 25, 2004.

Mass will be offered at Pandacan Catholic Church (Sto. Niño) at 6:30 A.M.

Her family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to say a prayer in her memory for the eternal repose of her soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

Manila City government, Filipino franchisors signed pact for economic development

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza, Councilor Greco Belgica (Chair for Economic Development) and Filipino franchisors signed a "strategic partnership" last June 3 and 4 during the "1st Manila Franchise Summit", a one-day conference hosted by Cito Beltran and two days exhibit at Baywalk. Enabling guaranteed support for the development of the City of Manila and of the franchise business industry. The City of Manila recognizes the potential of franchising industry. Among the industries that are emerging, franchising has proven 90% of success because it was copied from a successful business pattern.

Among the key points of the conference is the Mayor's intention of increasing the revenue of the city by helping those in the business industry to easily gain access of the government's services. Councilor Greco Belgica affirms it by citing the example that they were already practicing at City Hall, that a business owner can open their business in Manila in one (1) hour because, they have already established a system where one can finish the processing of the papers in one hour.

Expect the next twelve (12) months to bring further expansion to the franchise industry as Councilor Belgica laid down his plan to put up a Franchise Zone, a place where all the franchise businesses will be set-up and is accessible to the public. This is expected to bring more jobs to the residents of Manila and bring economic growth to our country. It also tries to cater the business owners' concern on high rental cost. Low rental cost can be applied to those who will be given spaces for the Franchise Zone and is expected to increase the profit.

Franchising seminar was also held at the conference. Bing Limjoco (president, Phil. Franchise Association), Butz Bartolome (Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.), and Rudolf Kotik (CEO, RK Consultancy), ardent supporters for the economic growth; shared their craft in Franchising during the seminar. This is the first time the three expert in Franchising shared effort and they all have agreed to help in bringing franchise owners to become involved in realizing the dream of Manila to become an Entrepreneurial City.

Participants of the seminar gained insight on the importance of Franchising and how to become a franchise owner. They were also able to get a chance to have a face to face contact with the owners of the different franchise models that joined the exhibit like House of Praise, Chowking, Mario's Kitchen, Seven Eleven, Goto King, Tang City, Lots' A Pizza, Potato Corner, Chichariffic, Bioessence, 99 Store, Fiorgelatto, Plato Wraps, Binalot, Julie's Bakeshop, Hotshots, Mocha Blend's, Sam's and Ministop.

With the sealing of partnership between the City Government of Manila and the Philippine Franchisers Group, Manila has proven to be the destination for business opportunities.

AMA Bank Officers attended the 52nd Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) Annual National Convention at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Last May 18-20, 2005 (from L to R) AVP Roberto Bombasi, president and CEO of Land Bank of the Philippines Mr. Margarito B. Teves, guest speaker, AVP Raquel Magkamit, EVP/COO Alejandro C. Soliman & AVP Monina Javier.

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Seven educational institutions get DBP funding for SME business assistance centers

AS PART of its assistance to the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has extended funding support to jumpstart the operations of business assistance centers (BACs) in partner-educational institutions under the Sustainable Partnership for Energizing Entrepreneurship Development (Speed) program. The seven educational institutions which received initial funding assistance from DBP were: Aklan State University, Benguet State University, Camarines Sur State Agricultural College, Central Philippine University, Foundation University, Mariano Marcos State University and Pampanga Agricultural College. Photo shows Aklan State University president Dr. Benny Palma receives from DBP president and chief executive officer Reynaldo G. David the ceremonial check representing the Bank's initial funding assistance.

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND
SEWERAGE SYSTEM CORPORATE OFFICE
4th Floor, Administration Building, MWSS Complex
Katipunan road, Balara, Quezon City 1105 Philippines
Tel. Nos. +63(+2) 922-3757; 922-2969 Fax No. +63(+2) 921-2887

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR THE PROPOSED BNAQ 6, PHASE 2: (11.50 km. NEW BICTI-NOVALICHES AQUEDUCT NO. 6)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) will undertake the construction of new tunnel and aqueduct (BNAQ-6 Phase 2) with a total length of about 11.50 km. that will be interconnected to the 5.50 km aqueduct (BNAQ-6 Phase 1). The interconnected aqueduct (BNAQ-6, Phases 1 & 2) will serve as a by-pass during rehabilitation of the existing aqueducts and will also be utilized to accommodate any additional supply from Angat and Umiray Rivers Basin.

MWSS secured a Technical Assistance Loan from ADB (TA Loan No. 2012 PHI) to finance the consultancy services of the project. The consulting services shall cover, among others the following:

1. Preparation of detailed engineering design and detailed cost estimates;
2. Preparation of bid/tender documents; and
3. Provide assistance to the MWSS BAC in the tender process (pre-bid conference, evaluation, etc.) leading to contract award.

MWSS therefore is inviting Foreign and Local consulting firms to submit their applications for pre-qualification together with their company profile and organizational structure which will provide information regarding their field of expertise and specialization and the experiences of key personnel who will be assigned to undertake the required consultancy services. On the basis of the submissions, MWSS will shortlist the consultancy firms.

Interested parties may secure the pre-qualification statement/forms and submit the same in five (5) sets (1-set original and 4-copies), together with the other required submittals, on or before 5:00 p.m. (Manila time) of **July 26, 2005** to the Office address stated below. Reference time shall be the bundy clock located at the same office. Late submission will not be accepted.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax No. (632) 922-2568

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - June 18 & 25, 2005)

CREATIVE ARTIST FIRM ELECTS ITS NEW OFFICERS!!

CREATIVE ARTIST PLACEMENT SERVICES, INC. announces its New Officers & Directors.

They are **LIZA P. KAWANO** – Chairman of the Board; **NENITA C. SAPIDA** – President; **LEDIE S. GUTTIEREZ** – Corporate Secretary/Director; **TOSHINORI KAWANO & HIPOLITO PAGENTE** - Directors.

The immediate past officers are: Elizabeth Hinolos – Chairman; Dina A. Consumido – President; Rodolfo M. Almonte – Vice-president; Rodel V. Rivera – Treasurer.

The Executives were elected during the CAPS special Stockholders Meeting on December 20, 2004 and May 2, 2005 respectively.

CREATIVE ARTIST PLACEMENT SERVICES, INC. is located at 2323 Marconi St., Barangay San Isidro, Makati City.

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Bank on a better career

We are looking for individuals with experience in the following fields:

Account Officers for Corporate Banking (Metro Manila)
Willing to take responsibility in soliciting and handling accounts of top 1000 corporations

- Male or Female, preferably 25 to 35 years old
- A graduate of any business related course
- Experience in marketing and account/relationship management; preferably currently handling accounts
- Proficient in credit evaluation and financial analysis
- Highly motivated, aggressive and possess good communication skills
- Team player
- Able to work under pressure with minimal supervision

Account Officers for Commercial Banking (Metro Manila)
Will be responsible in the identification of target markets and solicitation of accounts/clients. Will review viability of business/credibility of existing & prospective clients.

- A graduate of any business related course
- Possesses good oral and written communication skills; preferably Chinese speaking
- Experience in marketing and account management; preferably currently handling accounts
- Highly motivated, aggressive and flexible

Account Officer for Small Business Division (Metro Manila/Cagayan de Oro)
Candidate will market, evaluate, recommend credit facilities, manage borrowing client's loan portfolio, and will also handle collection

- Preferably not more than 35 years old
- Must have at least 2 years experience in credit/loans management (preferably with appraisal, documentation and loans collection background)
- Possesses good oral and written communication skills; ability to speak Chinese an advantage
- Must be honest and hardworking

Treasury Marketing Officers (Metro Manila/Angeles)
Willing to take responsibility for marketing various Treasury products and solicitation of new accounts

- Male or Female, preferably 20 to 30 years old
- A graduate of a business related course
- Highly motivated, aggressive and possesses good communication skills
- Able to work under pressure with minimal supervision

Telemarketing Officer
Responsible for the outbound telemarketing efforts of existing and prospective clients to market the Bank's products and services. Will also be tasked to generate new business from prospective clients from the various telemarketing activities, promos and events of the Bank.

- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly flexible and responsible
- Must have experience in sales,marketing or customer relations
- Able to work under pressure with minimal supervision

Japan Desk Account Officer
Responsible for the business development of new Japanese accounts. Will draw up target account listing of prospect Japanese companies and makes solicitation calls on them. Will be tasked to finalize the packaging and structures of services and/or credit facilities for new clients. Will handle account management servicing & existing client. Will cross-sell the Bank's and its affiliates' products and services. Will provide advice and assistance to the marketing officers in deal strategy formulation and execution or problem resolution with existing Japanese accounts.

- Graduate of a four-year business/marketing course of a reputable university
- With commercial banking experience as account officer preferably of Japanese accounts
- Willing to travel and observe Japanese business entertainment practices
- Proficient in Nihon-go and familiar with Japanese business practices, etiquette and management style

Cash Product Sales Officer
Will be responsible in providing cash flow solutions to Retail, Commercial & Corporate Banking Clients through Cash Management Products/Services. Facilitates proper documentations (pricing & MOA/Sales proposals) in implementing Cash Management services. Willing to be involved in fun loving marketing activities and enjoy the new and exciting world of transaction related businesses.

- A graduate of Business / Marketing / Economics (or any related course)
- Preferably with MBA or Account Management Experience
- With pleasing social personality
- Highly motivated, aggressive and possesses good communication skills
- Able to work under pressure with minimal supervision/fast learne
- A Team player
- Based in Head Office (Makati)
- Open to travel and meet interesting people
- Understands the electronic banking business

If you possess the above qualities, kindly send your resume to epcib.recruit@equitablepcib.com. Deadline for submission is July 15.
For more details & other employment opportunities, kindly visit our website at www.equitablepcib.com.

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Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 5 MVA (69 KV/13.2 KV) SUBSTATION INCLUDING 3 SECONDARY CIRCUITS, METERING/MONITORING STATION AND PERIMETER FENCE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will require the construction of 5 MVA Power Transformer Substation, having a primary input voltage of 69 KV and a secondary voltage of 13.2 KV Wye, 3 – Phase 4 Wire Wye System, to include the installation of High Voltage Circuit Breakers and Secondary Metal Clad Switch Gears Protection and Metering/Monitoring Station. Likewise, construction of power take-off for the Secondary 13.2 KV Structure per feeder and the primary 69 KV structure.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **TWENTY SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY PESOS & 20/100 ONLY (P27,195,590.20)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (69 KV/ 13.2 KV) Substation including 3 Secondary Circuits, Metering/Monitoring Station and Perimeter Fence"**, Bids received in excess or the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The ZCSEZA now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Construction of One (1) Lot 5 MVA (69 KV/13.2 KV) Substation including 3 Secondary Circuits, Metering/Monitoring Station and Perimeter Fence"**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **July 20, 2005**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required within **120 Calendar Days.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI Form available at the address given below), from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **July 12, 2005**. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents, in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat in the same address, on or before **July 20, 2005**.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ZCSEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 am to 5:00 pm on **August 23, to 30, 2005**.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before August 23 to 30, 2005.
7. The ZCSEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 3, 2005 at 10:00 AM** at the Conference Hall, Ground Floor Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below at or before **October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount of **Two Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Pesos & 90/100 (P271,955.90)**. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Conference Hall, Ground Floor Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **October 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
9. The ZCSEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0400, (062) 993-0209

(PDI – June 25 & July 2, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http//www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply of Services for Security at DepED Central Office, EDPITAF, and IMCS for CY 2005-2006

1. The General Service Division (GSD) of the Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWELVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 ONLY (Php12,801,360.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply of Services for Security** hereinafter called the "GOODS." Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.
2. The **DepED** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of "GOODS" to the **Department of Education, Educational Project Implementation Task Force (EDPITAF), Instructional Material Council Secretariat (IMCS)**, all located at DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on **June 23, 2005 until July 4, 2005** from the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand and 00/100 only (Php5,000.00). Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.
5. The **DepED BAC** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 5, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.**
6. Bids must be received on or before **July 19, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City**. Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The **DepED BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 25, & July 2, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

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Telefax : 631-96-40
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E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http//www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

(Re-Bid)

Repair/Renovation of Library Hub Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

The Department of Education (DepED), through the Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP2,439,800.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair/Renovation of Library Hub, at Araneta corner Hernaez St., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The DepED now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project. Bidders should possess a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of contract, have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Application for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. Bidding Documents shall be issued to prospective bidders who pass the eligibility check only. Completion of work required is sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.

Interested contractors shall submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) together with their application for eligibility to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), at the **DepED Division Office of Bacolod City, Rosario San Juan Street, Bacolod City, or BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Rm. 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City** not later than **July 1, 2005, 5:00 p.m.** Eligibility requirements shall be issued by DepED upon receipt of the LOI and application for eligibility.

Prospective Bidders shall submit their eligibility documents to the above address not later than **July 6, 2005, 5:00 p.m.** The DepED shall notify prospective bidders of the result of the eligibility check.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders starting **July 11 to 18, 2005** during office hours upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the address mentioned above, and payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP2,500.00. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. 034-4347603 or Fax No. 034-4338842. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.

The DepED will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible Bidders on **July 20, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at DepED Division Office of Bacolod City, Rosario San Juan Street, Bacolod City.

Submission and opening of bids shall be on **August 1, 2005, 2:00 p.m.**, at the address specified in paragraph no. 5.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least 15% interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check shall be opened.

The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 25, & July 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites prospective bidder to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT : Office supplies for lower courts (NCJR and Provinces)

ITEM FOR BIDDING	APPROVED BUDGET	SOURCE OF FUNDING
Office supplies for the lower courts (NCJR)	P 2,926,515.47	Continuing Appropriation
Office supplies for the lower courts (Provinces)	P 15,765,859.32	Continuing Appropriation
TOTAL	P 18,692,374.79	

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:

NCJR – Twenty Five (25) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order (P.O.)
Provinces – Sixty (60) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order (P.O.)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
The pre-bid conference shall be on **06 July 2005, Wednesday, 3:00 P.M.** at the **Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **13 July 2005, Wednesday, 2:00 P.M.**, at the **Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**

III. **SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS**
Bids of eligible bidders must be submitted on **20 July 2005, Wednesday** and will be opened at **2:00 P.M.** in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, at the **Session Hall, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the CoB Secretariat c/o Ms. Norma C. Josue, Property Division, 4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall Building (Tel. No. 5266401), after payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).**

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

15 June 2005.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI–June 18 & 25, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Tuguegarao City invites all interested bonafide bidders to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the *Supply, Delivery, Installation and Configuration of 114 Units Desktop Computers and Accessories* for the Cagayan State University – College of Information Technology – Computer Laboratories.

Description of the Project: *114 Units Desktop Computers In Two Computer Laboratories Connected via Wireless to Two Access Points*

Approved Budget for the Contract: P3,876,000.00
Source of Fund: CSU
Scope of Work:

a. Supply, Delivery and Installation of 114 units Desktop Computers and Accessories
b. Configuration, testing and commissioning of Wireless LAN
c. Provision of technical support and training to the operation of the system

Bid documents may be secured upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 from the BAC Secretariat, CSU, Tuguegarao City from June 27 to July 8, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays only. The deadline for the submission of Bids is on 08 August 2005, 10:00 a.m., at the Supply Office. Bid opening shall be at 2:00 p.m. of the same date. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 27 July 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the BAC Secretariat.

The Bids and Award Committee of the Cagayan State University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

The IRR-A of RA 9184 shall govern the bidding process.

THE BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – June 25 & July 1, 2005)

BUSINESS

LGUs want to take lead in VAT collection

LOCAL government units intend to collect value-added tax for the national government, and be designated as apprehenders of tax-delinquent businesses in their communities.

According to provincial, city and municipal treasurers nationwide, it was high time the national government deputize them as VAT collection agents to help plug the multibillion-peso VAT leakages every year.

The Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines has volunteered the services of local treasurers in improving the efficiency of the national government's VAT collection.

Pactap estimates that the deficiency in VAT collection stands at P65.5 billion each year.

It said that the pending move to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent—seen to result in revenue gains of over P60 billion a year—would reduce the national government's deficit.

Michelle V. Remo

NPCC: VAT cap won't affect prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE IMPLEMENTATION of the new value-added tax law on July 1 would not have a significant effect on the prices of basic goods and services as companies would be spared from the cap on deductions until the end of the year, according to the National Price Coordinating Council.

The NPCC groups together officers of manufacturing, retail and other firms, as well as government representatives from the departments of agriculture, energy, finance and trade and industry.

In a joint briefing, the four departments said that they would push for an increase of the 70-percent cap on private firms' input VAT credits, which would offset the output VAT imposed on the sale or lease of taxable goods, services or properties.

The old VAT law allowed firms to avail of full input VAT credit. But the new law puts a cap at 70 percent.

Business leaders have said they were amenable to a "compromise" of the 90-percent cap.

"The DTI, DA and DOE support a revision of the said provision and shall work closely with Congress to address this through a legislative amendment," the NPCC said.

The agency added that all price monitoring units of the government—specifically those of the DTI, DA and DOE—would step up their activities to ensure that no one took undue advantage of the new law as well as the rising trend in world oil prices.

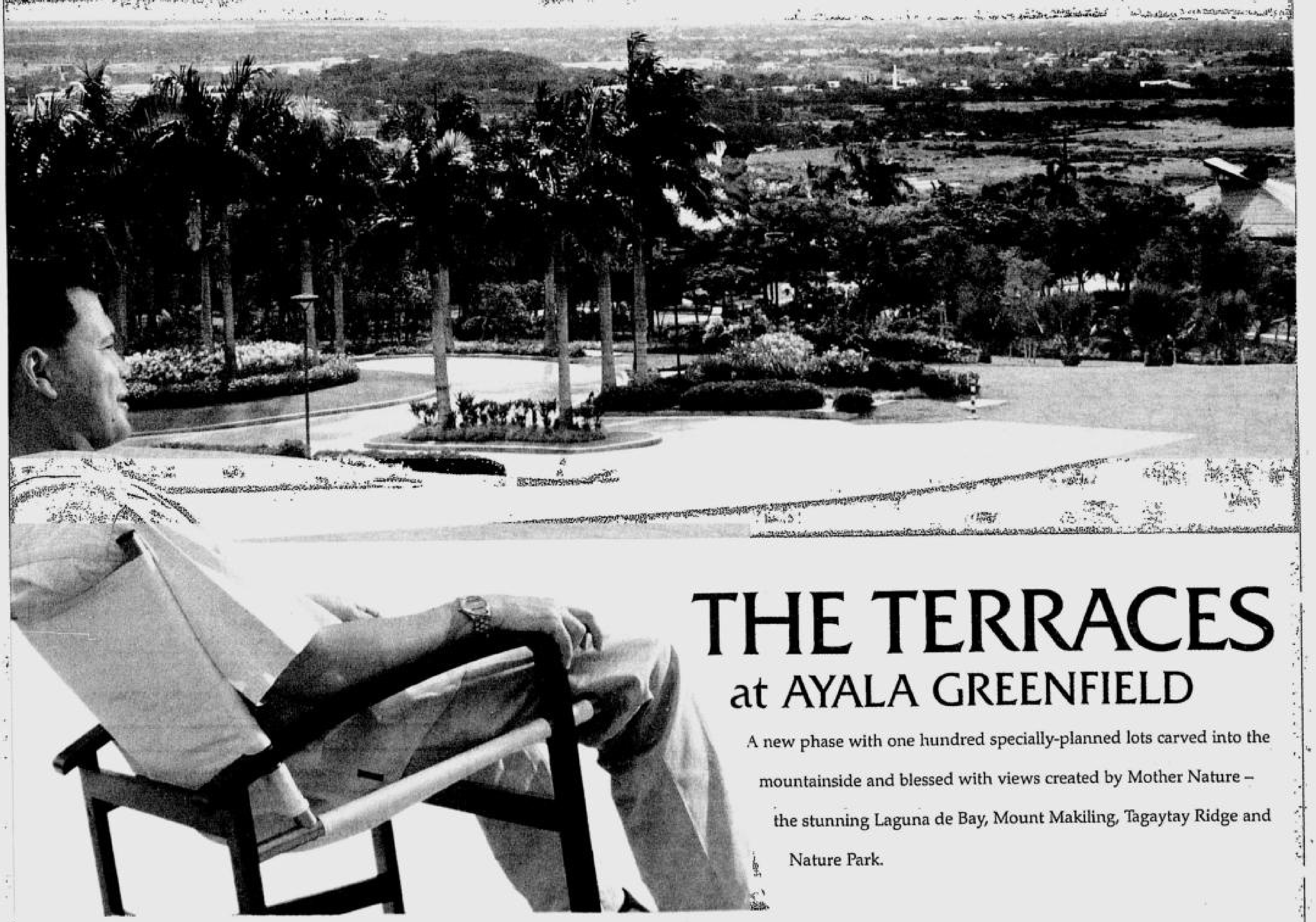
"No significant price increase is expected for agricultural products such as rice, meat and vegetables," it said. "The government would go after unscrupulous practices to protect consumers."

The NPCC added that, in order to mitigate the impact of the new law on socially sensitive products, the Cabinet Committee on Tariff and Related Matters has endorsed to the President an executive order reducing duties on crude and finished petroleum products from 5 percent to 3 percent.

The proposed EO also provides for the removal of duties for liquefied petroleum gas from the current 3 percent.

Further, the NPCC said it was pushing for "a progressive billing system (for electricity consumption), subject to the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission."

We have reserved the best seats in the house for you!



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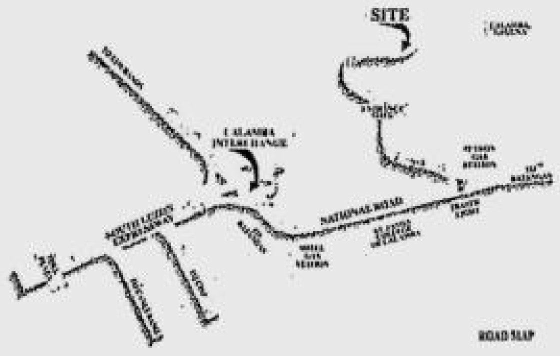

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An AYALA South Community

PROPERTY

Developing a lifestyle center at Brittany Bay

By Charles E. Buban

WATERING hole doesn't have the same meaning that it used to.

It no longer refers simply to a social gathering place and in fact, has evolved into something developers nowadays love to call as lifestyle center.

"Lifestyle centers do all the things that urban planners have promoted for years as ways of counteracting sprawl: squeeze more into less space and combine a mix of activities," says Brittany Corp. corporate communications head Nova Noval.

Noval cites The Wharf at the Brittany Bay in Sucat, Parañaque City, as one example of

DEVELOPING/ B2-2

INSPIRED by picturesque San Francisco, the Victorianne Row is just one of the budding communities rising within Brittany Bay development

The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

Building up the soul

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

EVERY structure has a purpose, and each purpose is fulfilled in every single person using the structure.

For the Shrine of our Lady of Torreciudad, its purpose is to be a landscape to God where miracles of conversions and peace for many souls can happen. The design evolves around the focal goal to enable people to pray in peace and be reconciled with God. And each person visiting the shrine comes out identified with this very sense of purpose.

The shrine's name is translated as Tower of the City. It is situated in the province of Aragon, north of Spain. The original shrine dated back to the early 11th century and since then has been a renowned site for pilgrims.

Spiritual renewal

The new shrine was conceptualized and materialized in realization of the wishes of St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei (latin for Work of God) to give honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary by providing means of spiritual renewal through the Sacrament of Confession. A distinct feature of the shrine is the crypt with 40 confessionals. St. Josemaria had prayed for silent and personal conversions rather than for spectacular miracles to take place in the shrine. This explains the numerous confessionals.

The principal architect was Heliodoro Dols and assisted by architects Santiago Sols and Ramon Mondejar. The construction started in 1956 and was finished in 1975. The shrine imbues a beauty of simplicity and sobriety, presenting a creative interpretation of the traditional elements of construction of Aragon.

The walls are predominantly made of bricks and if one follows the whole perimeter of the structure he will not see a single break among the bricks. Interestingly, the building is geometrically different from all angles.

Single inspiration

In May 1975, St. Josemaria made his last trip in visiting the shrine's completion. The images in the reredo captured him. The sculptured altarpiece by John Mayne are made of alabaster which radiates a certain glow at the touch of light. It contains the scenes of the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the tabernacle, the crucifixion and the ancient venerated image of Our Lady of Torreciudad.

It is impressive to marvel how a single inspiration can cascade to a multitude of spiritual conversions. St. Josemaria's inspiration to build the shrine has continuously brought forth an overflowing spiritual renewal. This is parallel to the life of the architects whose spark of idea can be translated to a monument of timeless significance.

Architecture is meant to be a legacy and each architect leaves forth an inheritance meant to last beyond his lifetime. St. Josemaria has done the same thing in leaving us a heritage of spiritual treasure which has enriched us for three decades now.

Blueprint of architecture

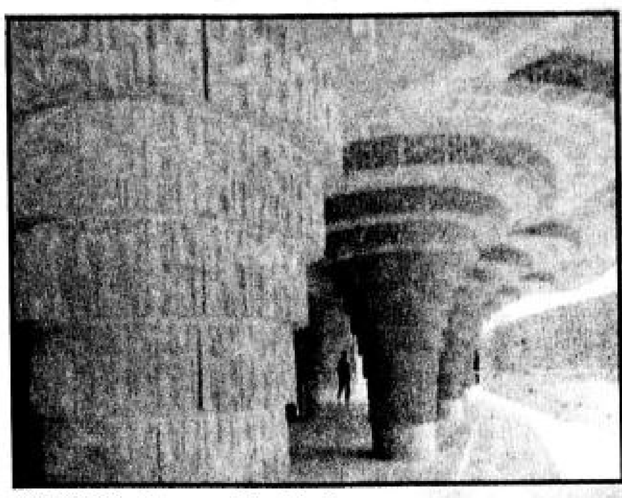
He himself had wanted to become an architect. This was the profession he had seriously considered when he was finishing his secondary education. But God called him to transcend the blueprint of architecture in order to work for the building up of the kingdom of God. However, he did not abandon the ingenuity of architecture, rather he made use of this in giving material examples to divine considerations.

His preaching hinges on practical applications and he refers to architecture and construction to illustrate these. In his bestseller book "The Way," he wrote in point 823 "Have you seen how that imposing building was constructed? One brick after another. Thousands. But, one by one. And bags and bags of cement, one by one. And stone upon stone, each of them insignificant compared with the massive whole. And beams of steel, and men working, hour after hour, day after day… Did you see how that imposing building was constructed?.. By dint of little things!"

He placed value in the little things of each day where the real battle is encountered: like getting up on time, smiling, attention to those we work and live with, meeting the deadlines.

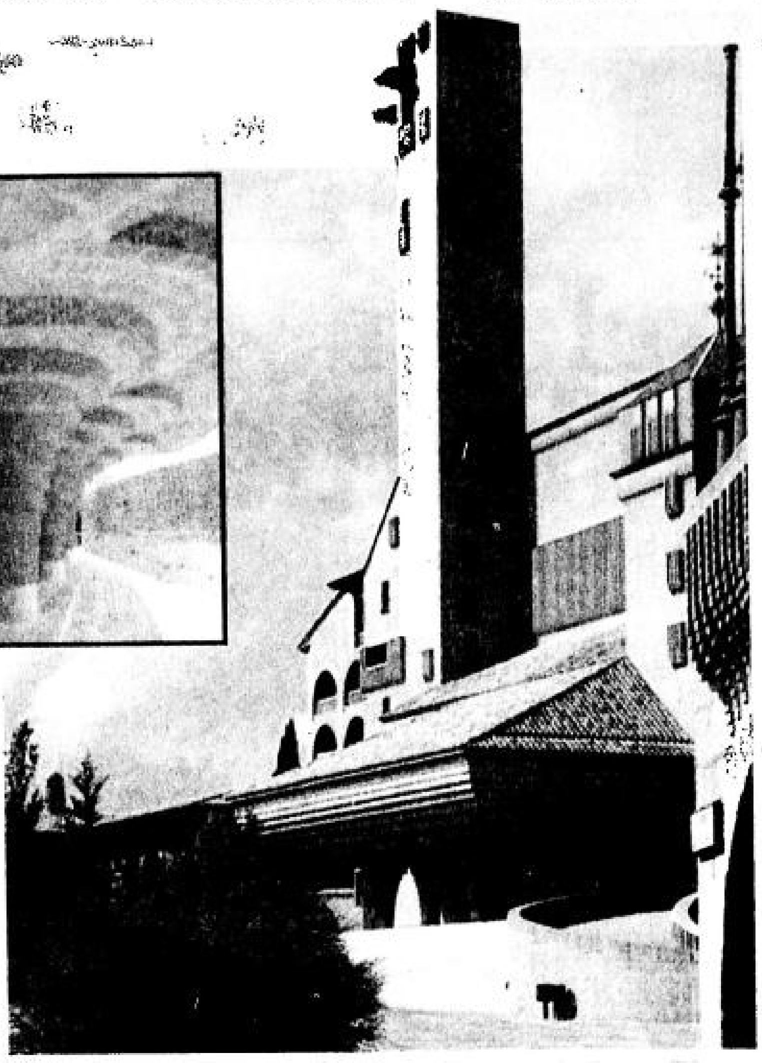
As we commemorate the 30th death anniversary of St. Josemaria on June 26, it is never too late to learn the core of his ministry. He has beautifully encapsulated his teaching in his homily in 1967:

"Wherever your yearnings, your work, your affections are, that is the place for your daily encounter with Christ. It is in the midst of the most material things of the earth that we must sanctify ourselves, serving God and all people. Heaven and earth seem to merge, my sons and daughters, on the horizon. But where they meet is in your hearts, when you sanctify your everyday lives…." He had made us realize that we build up the Kingdom of God right where we are….



EXTERIOR columns, original design by Heliodoro Dols

ST. JOSEMARIA Escriva de Balaguer, founder of Opus Dei



THE SHRINE of Our Lady of Torreciudad, Spain

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Developing a lifestyle center

From page B2-1

a lifestyle center.

Response

Says Noval: "This is a response to our residents' developing taste. The Wharf offers Brittany Bay communities something more than an average watering hole experience."

She relates that with The Wharf, Brittany Corp. has created a place that offers lasting connection to the residents of Brittany Bay.

The Wharf, which now hosts Figaro, Grappa's Ristorante and Dencio's Bar and Grill, is also home to The Bay Center for Music and Arts that offers music, art and dance classes to both children and adults.

"Once everything is completed, The Wharf will become a pleasing and vibrant place where friends, families and the rest of expanding neighborhood of Brittany Bay will hang out and commune," assures Noval.

Uniqueness

Lifestyle centers like The Wharf, offer its patrons uniqueness not only in terms of their components, but also in design.

"The Wharf has a more residential feel. It immediately makes one feel that he is in a real, bustling neighborhood: shaded sidewalks, flowered trellises, narrow side streets. Human interaction is central to the design of The Wharf," describes Noval.

She relates that what makes The Wharf even more special is the communities that it now and will soon complement.

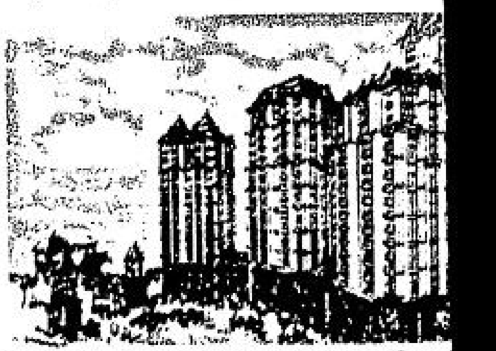
"There is now La Posada and Victorianne, home to neo-Victorian inspired houses whose ambience definitely reminds one of San Francisco in California and very soon the Viera, a collection of condominium towers ranging from 16 to 22 stories high," reveals Noval.

She reports that residents of these developments are already enjoying the existing amenities at The Wharf since they are just a few blocks away from their homes and there's no need to use their cars.

Complete community

Noval says that the whole Brittany Bay sits on a 50-hectare property so what people now see—La Posada, Victorianne and The Wharf—is just a small portion of the whole development.

LIKE a typical lifestyle center, The Wharf is a pleasing, vibrant place where community take shape and public life happens.



THE VIERA will be the latest of Brittany Corp. development beside The Wharf

"Our residents and would-be residents shou
glad to know there is a lot more to come. Wh
began working on the plans for Brittany Bay,
ready agreed that it should be one that maxi
the property's potential," reveals Noval.

In fact, even the Viera will have leisure and
mercial areas at its lower levels to comple
what is offered at The Wharf.

"Al fresco dining areas, coffee shops, bout
and convenience shops will be available th
the commercial establishments in the intercon
ed lower levels of Viera's condominiums," say
val.

Indeed, with all these development Nov
sures that residents of Brittany Bay will no l
have to look somewhere else just to experien
finer things in life.

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Chateau Elyseé *Designed For The Good Life*

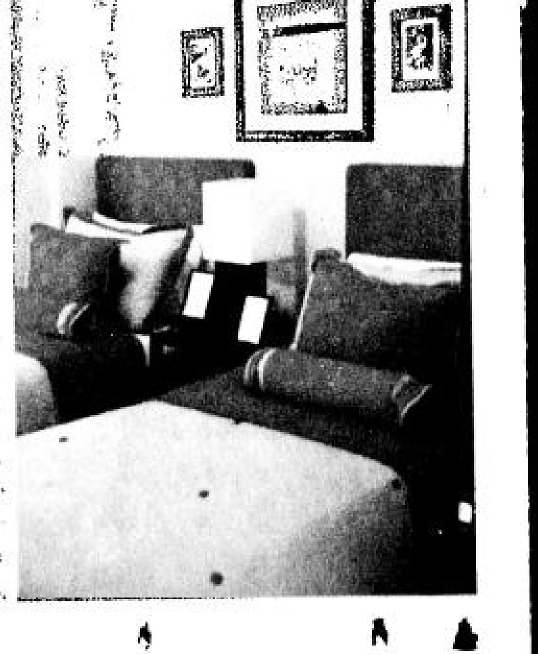
Living the good life need not be costly. It may simply be a matter of maximizing space, providing generous amenities and wide-open spaces, and still keeping everything within reach of the average Filipino's budget.

At Chateau Elyseé, the initial project of SM Development Corporation, all design details come together to provide a rare experience in affordable luxury. A wealth of amenities makes for unexcelled convenience. The clusters are painted in Mediterranean colors and spaced far apart for better ventilation and privacy.

Each unit has a three-meter-high ceiling, well above the 2.7-meter regulation height. This creates an airy, cool feel. Each unit is also carefully planned for excellent distribution of space among the living and dining areas, kitchen, and bedrooms.

Model units can be viewed at the site itself, Doña Soledad Avenue Extension, Bicutan, Parañaque City, or at Building A, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, Pasay City. These model units serve as a showcase of how a well-planned interior design can maximize the amount of floor area, and furnish the unit for full visual impact. Planned and executed by well-known interior design outfit Atelier Almario, the model unit designs make use of various themes such as Japanese Zen and Asian Modern.

Whatever the unit owner's preference, there is an interior design plan that speaks eloquently of his taste and preference. In the same way that Chateau Elyseé speaks well of his lifestyle.



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A EXPO 2005

king for affordable homes, best financing schemes?

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o your questions and similar a Expo 2005 is certainly the

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sing and other real estate pro- red to buyers—families out to eam homes" or others interest- other suitable property in the biggest real estate presentation reba Expo 2005 billed on July ld Trade Center.

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conference with local govern- boost housing for their com-

match scores of hiring employ- ls of excited applicants.

sessions for prospective small- le enterprisers who may be mselves.

banks' acquired assets with big

s on home beautification, im- n feng shui for peace of mind, a market) on housewares and

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e expo's overall theme is "Our Roof."

resentation of products and of- inancing facilities, information using and homes, construction pplies, "Our World under One A. Cura, national president of Real Estate and Builders Associ- "will prove to be an exciting, productive experience for busi- sionals, industry players, and ially the home buyers."

" said Rosemarie C. Basa, Creba

CURA

BASA

executive vice president and expo overall chair, "a lot of people renting their houses, whether bungalows or townhouses, for decades, may be amazed to know it would be cheaper or better to get housing loans from Pag-Ibig Fund or other financing institutions and eventually own their dream homes."

National business, trade and professional organizations have assured expo organizers that their members and employees will be encouraged to visit the various exhibits and attend briefing sessions by the Pag-Ibig Fund on available housing loans and other related housing learning sessions by professional industry players. Some companies are providing buses to their employees to get to the expo site.

Supporting organizations

Among the supporting organizations are the Employers Confederation of the Philippines led by president Rene Y. Soriano; Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, president Donald G. Dee; Philippine Exporters Confederation of the Philippines, president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr.; and United Filipino Seafarers president, Nelson P. Ramirez.

Taking part as exhibitors are Alanda E-Realty, Almeda Inc., Benjamin Construction, Brittany, Cathay Land Inc., Central Country Estate, CityState Realty Development Corp., Crown Asia/Polar, DMCI Homes, Duraville Realty Development Corp., Elysian Field, Empire East Corp., Extraordinary, Earth and Style, and Federal Land, Homeowners Development Corp., and Jardine Land.

Also putting up their exhibits are JTKC Land Inc., Lexber Realty/Holiday, Macro Properties, M. Abubakar Consolidated, Magnificent Ventures Masterpiece, Northwoods Realty Development Corp., One Asia Development Corp., R-II Builders, RJ Lhinet, Serve Quest, State Properties Corp., Sunrise Holiday Concept, The Shang Grand Tower Corp., and V.V. Soliven Realty Development.

Expo sponsors are Boysen Paints, Davies Paints, Emerald PVC Pipes, Berde Plants Inc., CICG Trade International Corp., Cypress-Bomanite, Metts Plants Arts, MGS Corp., R-II Builders, Vazbuilt, Aero-Med Ambulance Transport, BCS Systems & Technologies Inc./Vantage, Café Puro Jade Blend, D.B. International Sales & Services Inc./Team Asia, Fundador Gold Reserve, Next Mobile Inc./Imex, Novellino/Growers, Powerbooks Specialty Store and Taytan International Corp.

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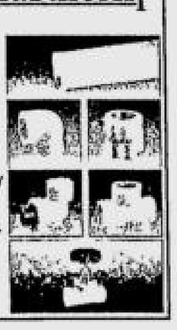
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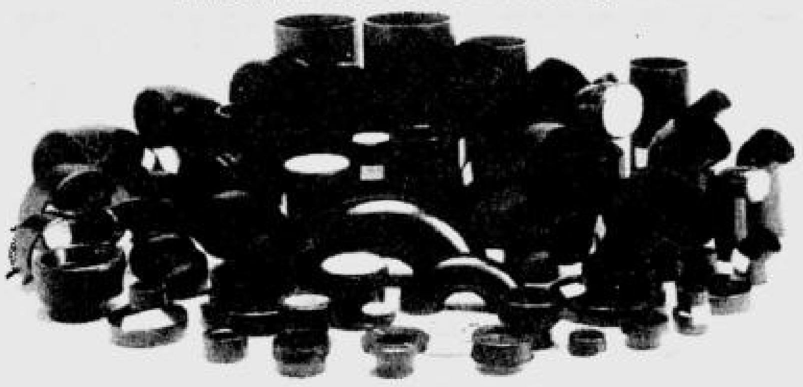
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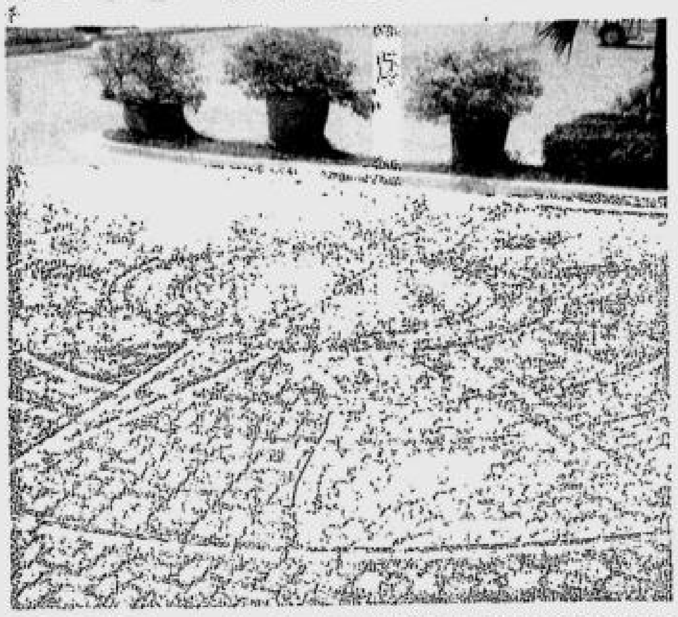
MGS enhances architectural esthetics with pavers



MSG PAVERS create attractive, hardworking surfaces for open areas subject to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

FOR DEVELOPMENTS and establishments to be patronized by many and stand out from the thousands of other businesses, a strong visual appeal is needed to attract and interest potential visitors. Simple pathways, upscale residential communities and sophisticated architectural structures spread around the metro share a distinct detail—an element that defines it from other developments.

Pavers, the current trend in construction as surface finishing, are colored interlocking blocks which lend an attractive appearance to open areas of commercial centers, malls, churches, restaurant complexes and upscale residential communities. Manufacturing pavers for some of the country's biggest property developments, MGS Corp. is a byword in the construction industry with its range of complementary products and services that spell cost-efficiency for architects, contractors, developers and homeowners.

Distinguishing MGS pavers from concrete surfaces and other inferior pavers are its unique characteristics and practical advantages:

- **Collection of unique molds.** Pathways, terraces, plazas, driveways and other open areas made more welcoming with multicolored pavers create a favorable first impression for the visitors of different developments. MGS offers an array of shapes, the familiar rectangular and i-shaped pavers to more unique cuts like zigzag, y-shaped, circulo and keyhole. Another is the grass paver, specially designed for gardens, it allows grass to grow from the center of the mold.
- **Creating artistic designs.** With a selection of lively colors to choose from—green, yellow, blue, red, grey and terracotta—the pavers may be used to create designs that are out of the ordinary. When blended, the varying shapes and hues of the pavers can make alternating patterns. More complex designs form mosaics which complement the landscaping and reflect the development's architectural influence.
- **Functional beauty.** Apart from improving the façade, MGS also makes use of the Besser machine to produce interlocking stone pavers that are stronger and more resistant to damage or chipping, longer lasting in beauty and strength, and of better quality overall. MGS takes advantage of US-sourced technology to manufacture pavers in the yards of Manila South Harbor which have strengths of up to 10,000 lb per square inch. This feature enables the pavers to bear vehicular traffic, as with vehicles at the South Harbor that carry 80- to 100-ton containers. While concrete surfaces can develop cracks that require more costly repair, MGS pavers are sectionalized so that any repairs involve limited areas.

More than manufacturing superior quality pavers. The services of MGS go beyond the manufacturing of pavers by covering installation and maintenance. A layout design for the space to be enhanced with pavers will also be provided by MGS at no cost. Installation time of the pavers is never second guessed with their efficient construction methods amounting to one day of completion for a 100-sq-m area and one week for 1,000-sq-m area. Protecting the beauty of their projects are the proprietary services of MGS Pave Clean and MGS Degrease, routines that are needed annually for hi-traffic sections and every 2-3 years for idle areas.

A testament that pavers are indeed effective esthetic enhancements is the growing list of MGS paver users.

MGS construction pavers are available at Home Plus Las Piñas, Wilcon Hardware outlets, Federal Hardware and Home Depot. Deliveries within Metro Manila are free of charge. For inquiries on MGS pavers, call 873-1793 and 874-4126.

How to cope with gigantic housing woe

WITH THE urban population continuing to increase by 3 percent yearly, more than 127 million Filipinos will be living in cities by year 2050. How could the government, the private sector and the country cope with the ensuing gigantic housing problem?

The current country-wide housing shortage is estimated at four million housing units, and the homeless are not only the squatters, but also the not so poor—the big middle-class sector, whose vitality and strength continue to sustain the nation through the bad times, according to Subdivision and Housing Developers Association national president Marilu M. Alferez and board chair Bansan C. Choa.

Guests

The SHDA has invited top government officials and private sector leaders to discuss the housing issues along with measures to boost the real estate sector and the national economy at its national convention set on July 28-29 at the L'Fisher Hotel in Bacolod City.

The convention will be held in partnership with the government's Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDDC) chaired by Vice President Noli de Castro, on the theme "Ibayong Tulungan sa Pabahay tungo sa Pambansang Kaunlaran" (Synergized Cooperation toward National Progress).

The SHDA, the country's largest organization of housing developers, has been closely collaborating with the government housing sector led by HUDCC for the last few years in efforts to make the housing program succeed, they said. But there is an equally pressing need, Alferez and Choa pointed out, to continuously underscore the urgency of prioritizing housing development "on the same standing and importance" as other basic needs of the people.

At the same time, SHDA said, government should strive to enable the private sector to better perform its role through industry pump primers and opening up more opportunities for production and expansion of projects. Government studies have shown the multiplier effect of housing development on national economic development at some 16.7 percent, boosting some 60 related industries and creating more job opportunities for the people.

Workshops

For the first workshop, financial institutions, particularly banks, have been invited for discussions on possible areas of convergence, partnership and business opportunities between them and housing developers. This will specifically involve the disposition and rehabilitation of acquired assets of banks and other real and other properties owned and acquired (ROPOAs) by banks through the facilities under the special purpose vehicle (SPV).

The second workshop will focus on matching SHDA members with overseas marketing networks. Discussions will focus on demographics and other socio-economic profiles of overseas Filipino workers as well as areas of convergence between government and the private sector to address the housing needs of OFWs.

Success stories and various innovative strategies being adopted by developers in reaching out to the OFWs will be also be shared with the participants.

Developers' opportunities in linking up with the Philippine Retirement Authority will be taken up in the third workshop. The retirement program of the PRA will be discussed with an eye on specific areas of cooperation and partnership between the government and the real estate developers for housing projects and activities catering to foreign retirees.

Grotto Shrine
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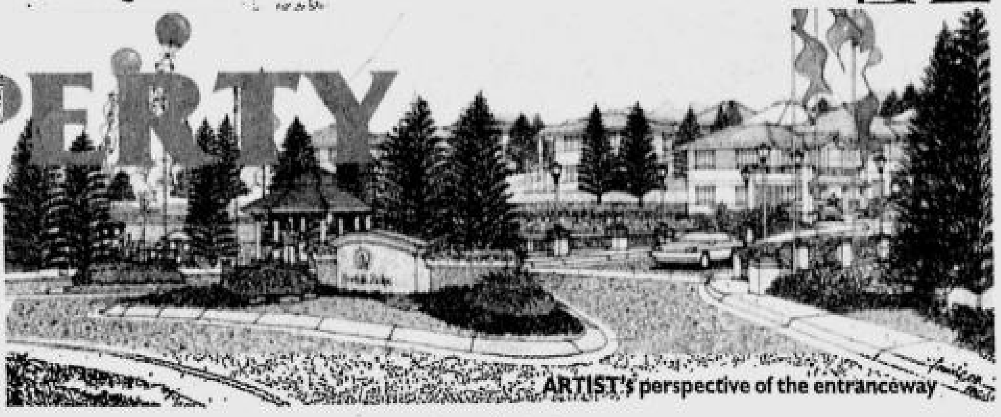
Trees serve as centerpiece of residential development



ARTIST's perspective of the entranceway

By Charles E. Buban

NORFOLK Island pine is a tall evergreen tree characterized by its single upright trunk, tiered branching and narrow pyramidal shape.

Their beauty provide the perfect backdrop to various themes, a reason Jardine Land decided to make these Pacific Island natives the centerpiece of their newest development.

"Norfolk Ridge Residential Estates is a picturesque enclave of pine trees and world-class homes," describes Jardine Land chief operating officer Harry Rodriguez Jr.

Woodland haven

Located within Greenwoods Village in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Jardine Land created a unique woodland haven on this 3.77-hectare area (adjacent to the west boundary of Greenwoods Village Phase 1).

According to Rodriguez, the streets shall be planted with this type of pine tree.

Says Rodriguez: "We believe trees should be given priority in any development since apart from beautifying the surroundings, they ensure ecological health of the development. The Norfolk pines is perfect since they grow fast, stay green all year round and set the perfect backdrop for our homes."

Rodriguez relates that Norfolk Ridge only follows their other developments' philosophy that any project should be built with respect to its natural surroundings, explains Rodriguez. "In Greenwoods, for example, we did not even cut the big trees where we could have built another unit. In fact, we even planted new ones to make the whole property greener."

132 lots

There will be a total of 132 lots available, with floor area ranging between 179- and 187-sq-m and 150- and 165-sq-m lots.

Residents of Norfolk Ridge will be given access to Greenwoods Village amenities and facilities, which include sports and leisure centers, basketball court and dayspring gardens (amphitheater, footbridge and fishing area).

"Living in Norfolk Ridge also provides the convenience of being near recreational establishments like the Enchanted Kingdom, enjoy short-distance trips to fine beaches of Caylabne, Puerto Azul or to play first-class golf in Southwoods, Riviera, Orchard and Tagaytay Highlands," relates Rodriguez.

Jardine Land, with its development subsidiary, Jardine Properties Inc. is a joint venture formed by five leading companies: Jardine Davies Inc., San Miguel Properties, Hong Kong Land, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Equitable Bank.

Laguna BelAir dream homes

THROUGH A SPECIAL weekend market promotion, leading township developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is bringing the homes of Laguna BelAir, the most successful township south of Manila, within the reach of even more home buyers.

The weekend market will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and tomorrow at Laguna BelAir 2's Rodeo Drive. Guests at the event will receive up to 25 percent discount on the Laguna BelAir home of their choice as well as great deals on fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers sold by Laguna BelAir homeowners and selected concessionaires.

20% discount

For enterprising home buyers, the weekend market offers a 20 percent discount on the Laguna BelAir Shophouse, a two-in-one unit that allows its owner to do business and raise a family under one roof. Located on Rodeo Drive in Laguna BelAir 2, which will soon host the entire township's main commercial strip, the Shophouse provides generous store space on the ground floor and efficiently designed living space on the second floor.

At the Shophouse, with a lot area ranging from 110 to 200 square meters in size, owners may run small-scale businesses such as a boutique, video rental shop, clinic, 24-hour convenience store or even a mini mart from the 38.78-sq-m commercial level on the ground floor. Meanwhile, the living quarters upstairs feature a master's bedroom, a children's bedroom, dining and living areas, a kitchen and a toilet/bath. The Shophouse provides separate entrances to the shop and to the second-level home for the owner's privacy and safety.

Those interested in owning a piece of Laguna BelAir may call 867-8937 to 41 for details.

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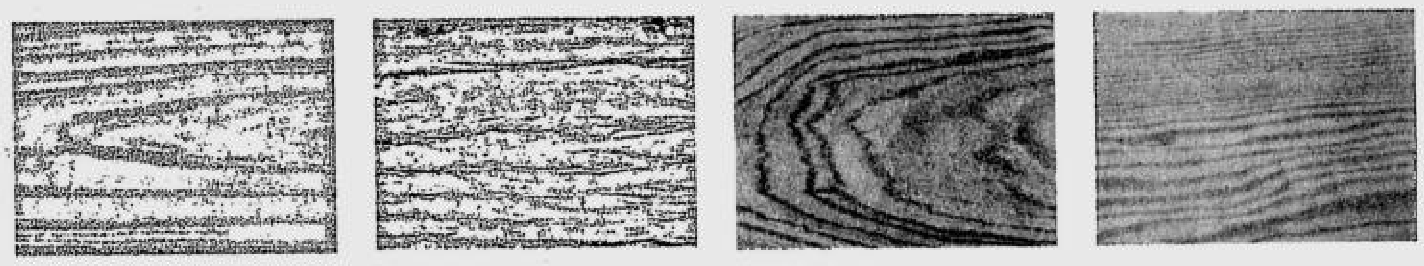

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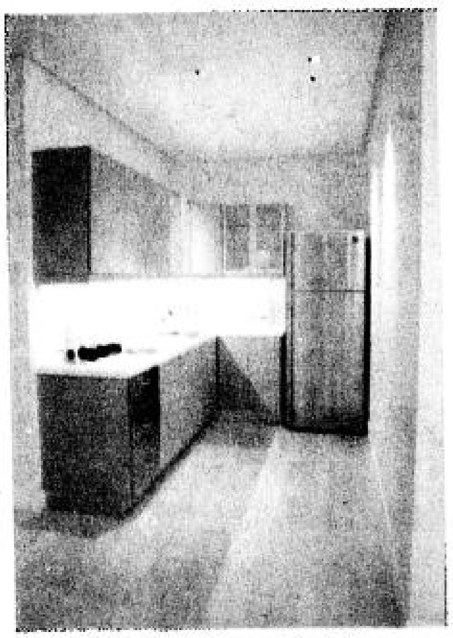
Design solutions for metro living

WITH THE DAILY grind of traffic and long commutes, people specially working professionals are now choosing to live in an ideal location where transportation access, work places and leisure areas are within easy reach.

One such place is Soho Central a chic 35-story condominium in the heart of Mandaluyong city. It is the first transportation-oriented development in the country that will have direct link to the MRT station.



THE KITCHEN was given a soft look by its space-enhancing cabinets in beige color and pale green.

Major factors

According to Chut Cuerva, interior designer of Soho Central, creative space planning and functionality are major factors to consider in designing the perfect residence for the mobile and working professionals.

At Soho Central, unit sizes range from 30 to 64 square meters. "These are sensible sized residences that are very manageable and ideal especially for the hectic lifestyle of a professional," says Cuerva.

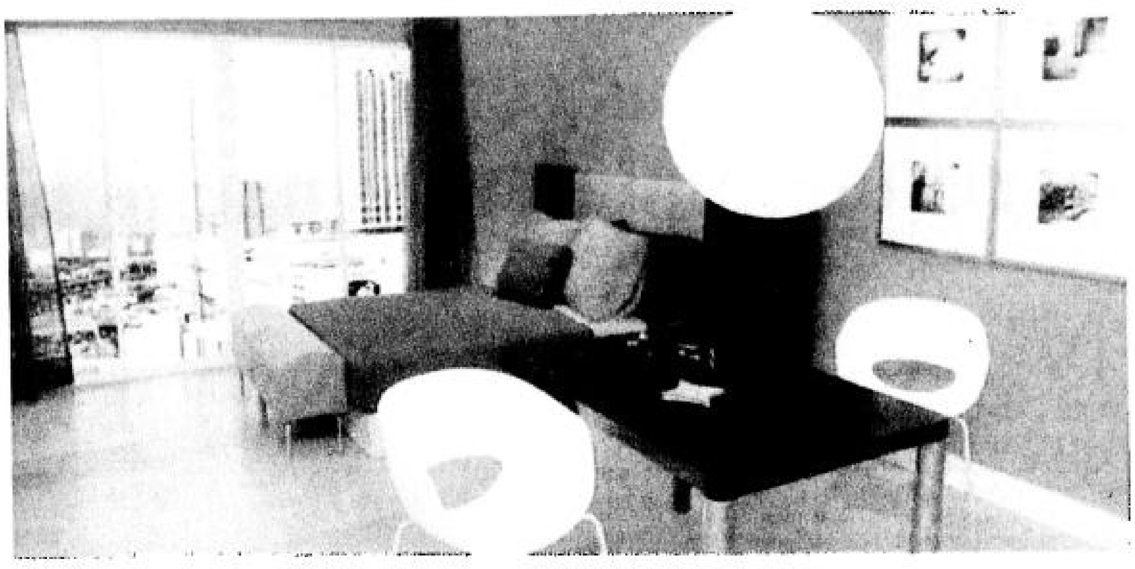
The chic and clean form of the Soho Central model unit echoes the lifestyle of today's cosmopolitan urban dweller. Just like the regular apartments in New York and London where living spaces are modest and limited, the right interior designs and space planning can do wonders in transforming even the smallest rooms to a work of art.

It is "creating space you never knew you had," says Cuerva. Warm earthy tones or any light-coordinated tones naturally unite space. "Space is a relative concept. Even large rooms can feel cramped if they are badly lit or stuffed with excess and large furniture and possessions," adds Cuerva.

Comfortable mix

As the saying goes, "make things simple and complex things possible." The uncluttered minimalist look of the two-bedroom model unit at Soho Central plays host to a comfortable mix of shapes in light color canvass with accent shades designed not to overwhelm the elements they are meant to enhance.

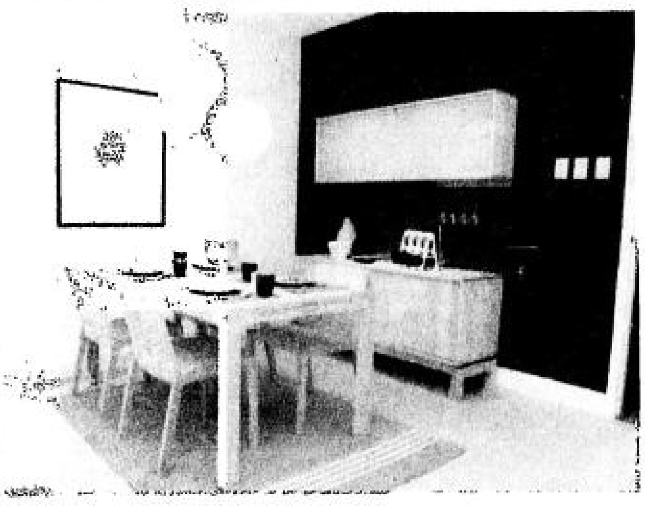
In the studio cum one bedroom, the distinct design merges effortlessly with the color hues and minimalist and modern look of the unit. The kitchen was given a soft look by its space-enhancing cabinets in beige color and pale green. There are also clever compartment features and drawers to give more storage space.



THE RIGHT interior designs and space planning can do wonders in transforming even the smallest rooms to a work of art.

The sedate modern design of the residences are further complemented by flooding the space with light and outlining the panoramic floor to ceiling views.

Soho Central is a development of Meridien Development Group-Century Communities Corp. Model units available for viewing daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the ground floor, Edsa Central Mall, Mandaluyong. For more information, please call Century Communities at 818-9025 or 893-7050.



Pelham Quadruplex units have countless design possibilities

THE NEW Pelham Quadruplex model unit of the Legacy at Montgomery Place was recently blessed in a ceremony attended by various executives of real estate developer Ayala Land Inc.

The event was preceded by a ribbon-cutting ceremony participated in by Ayala Land's Residential Buildings Group SVP Angie Lacson, project development manager for Montgomery Place Giggio Jugo, architect Marcos de Guzman and interior designer J. Antonio Mendoza of J. Antonio Mendoza Architects Manila.

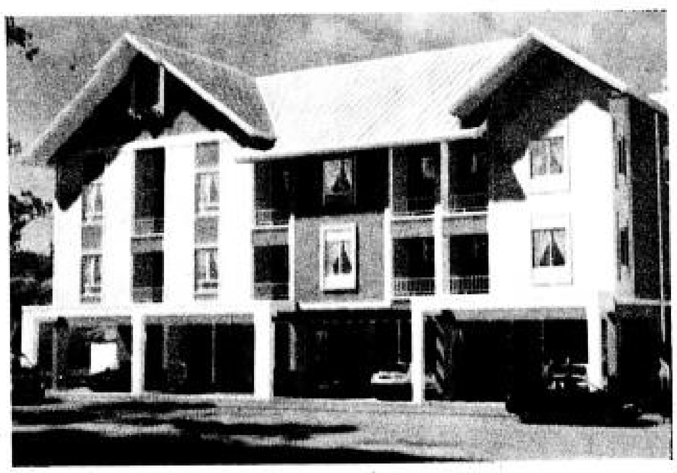
Jugo, in his welcoming remarks, announced that the activity signifies the near-completion of the endeavor: "The opening of this model unit actually marks the beginning of the end of the project. This is our last model unit, and as of today, we are about 50 percent sold out. It's good to note that Montgomery Place has actually outsold the equivalent of two competitors' units at half the time."

Mendoza, whose prior involvement in Ayala Land projects include Montgomery Place's Unit 173, One Legazpi Park and Serendra, elaborated on the simplistic yet elegant design of the new three-story Quadruplex model unit after the rites. According to the interior designer, the overall design and custom-crafted decorations took slightly over three weeks to finish, with the help of his two assistants.

"Every time we're given a project, we're given a profile of the family that's supposed to live there. We have to design according to that profile. This time, it's a profile for one that has one son in college and two young daughters. It's designed to be very modern with Oriental accents. This is an idea, one of many possibilities that the homeowners can do."

He added that the structure of the clustered, four-unit Quadruplex is already well-designed, so it was a challenge to come up with more space-maximizing techniques.

Said Mendoza: "This design is what they call 'contemporary-eclectic.' It's on the modern side, but it's mixed with Oriental antiques. It's very clean and uncluttered. We have the use of mirrors to expand the rooms. I also used a rare Ivan Acuña colored painting. All the walls are done in light colors. It's a back-to-basics approach to make the unit even more spacious."



THE QUADRUPLEX artist's perspective

FUTURE homeowners will soon be able to experience stylish yet comfortable urban living at the Pelham Quadruplex.

He is optimistic that future residents will be appreciative of his work, as many have been in the past with his other inspired designs. "Every project is different. They're always exciting; the spaces are beautiful. They're very designer-friendly. Ayala Land carefully hand-picked their designers, so they know what our capabilities are. It's very easy to work with them."

The Legacy at Montgomery Place is located on E. Rodriguez, Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. It is conveniently situated near hospitals, schools, and commercial establishments. For further details on the newly launched units and payment schemes, please call 728-7000, or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing on-site.

Tegula: The crowning glory of your home

TEGULA Tiles presents a beautiful yet economical way of changing the look of your home with their line of roofing tiles. Designed to dramatically improve your home's design, Tegula will provide a classy look to any home by not just simply putting a roof over your family's heads but putting one that is extremely pleasing to the eye, and will last for generations to come.

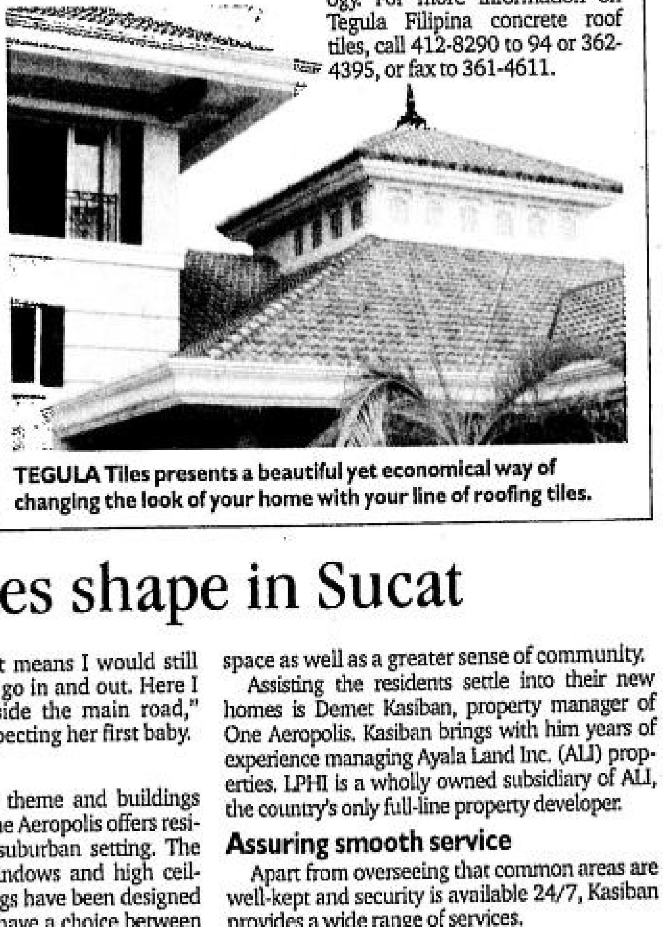
Tegula Filipina concrete roof tiles are made with the highest quality standards from first-class indigenous raw materials. Its egg-shaped advantage makes tegula tough attaining the highest flexural load rating (breaking point) in its class. Underneath each Tegula tile are unique water stoppers that prevent backflow of wind-driven water. The interlocking system makes installation quick and easy. Tegula tiles are rust-free, noise-free, fireproof and cool possessing high-heat resistance due to its immense insulating capacity.

The classy and elegant look of Tegula tiles might make you think that they are quite expensive but they are actually very affordable. They can be acquired at a reasonable cost and does not need yearly maintenance. After laying them out on your roof you can forget about it and focus more on the things that your beautiful roof protects underneath.

TEGULA will dramatically improve your home's design.

Tegula tiles are tough enough to withstand typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic ash falls and even bullets. Also, they also have your esthetic needs in mind. That's why Tegula tiles come in a choice of slurry coated monotone, two-tone and three-tone colors of various shades with clear acrylic finish, terracotta red and cement gray that can be painted with any color of rubberized/elastomeric paint.

Tegula tiles are sold nationwide and exported to various countries including Guam, Spain and Palau. Tegula Filipina concrete roof tiles are manufactured by Vazquez Commodities Corp., a member of the Vazquez Group of Companies, Filipino innovators in the construction and building industries and the country's leader in the prefab technology. For more information on Tegula Filipina concrete roof tiles, call 412-8290 to 94 or 362-4395, or fax to 361-4611.



TEGULA Tiles presents a beautiful yet economical way of changing the look of your home with your line of roofing tiles.

CPAC Monier increases plant capacity as Philippine market conditions improve

INDUSTRY leader CPAC Monier Philippines Inc. (CMPI), manufacturers of market-leading CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles, announced that it has recently increased the production capacity of its manufacturing plant in Batangas by 42 percent to meet the future requirements of its customers and in anticipation of a continuing improvement in market conditions.

CMPI president Suthep Lymsatitaporn said the plant capacity buildup, which was completed during the first quarter of the year, was in line with earlier projections that demand from customers would further increase this year and that the construction sector, which started recovering in late 2003, would sustain its recovery.

Plant buildup

"The plant capacity buildup is also our way of assuring our growing list of customers that CMPI would be able to meet all their requirements for high-quality, world-class concrete roof tiles from CPAC Monier, now and in the future," Suthep said.

The CMPI production plant, located in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, currently has the capacity to produce 10 million tiles annually, more than enough to meet the demands of developers and builders nationwide.

Bracing distribution channel

To complement the plant buildup, the CMPI official said the company has also further strengthened its distribution channel by accrediting more dealers and by establishing its presence in other areas where awareness about concrete roof tiles is still relatively low.

Suthep expressed confidence that, based on preliminary industry figures, the local construction sector will sustain its growth this year.

"We are ready to meet the requirements of this reemerging market, and we assure you that CPAC Monier will continue to be an important player in the roofing industry, ready to provide the Filipino consumer with world-class materials anywhere in the Philippines," he said.

YOUNG families and early nesters are part of the growing One Aeropolis community in Sucat.

New LPHI community takes shape in Sucat

INDICATIVE of the growing acceptance of multistory residential condominiums catering to the mid-income sector, a new Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI) community is rising in Sucat, Parañaque. Early this year, One Aeropolis, LPHI's first in-city development, opened its doors to the new residents who are discovering the flexibility and convenience of condominium living.

One Aeropolis unit owner Rowena Orpiano and her husband moved into their studio unit in April this year. An engineer of a large telecom firm, Rowena is assigned to its Sucat branch, which is only a mere 10 minutes from her home. Her husband is also an engineer and both appreciate the workmanship and design layout of One Aeropolis.

"We chose a condo unit since it is very near the main road and we don't have a car. If I lived inside a subdivision, that means I would still need to ride a tricycle to go in and out. Here I can get a ride just outside the main road," notes Rowena, who is expecting her first baby.

Surburban setting

With a Mediterranean theme and buildings painted in earth colors, One Aeropolis offers residents condo living in a suburban setting. The units have panoramic windows and high ceilings. The first two buildings have been designed around atriums. Owners have a choice between studio units that cost around P1 million or two-bedroom units priced at P2.4 million.

US-based Victoria Ramos, the first to accept the key to her unit, considers her new home a rewarding investment. Young couple Raymond and Millie Rosas are particularly pleased with the atrium which provides them visual space as well as a greater sense of community.

Assisting the residents settle into their new homes is Demet Kasiban, property manager of One Aeropolis. Kasiban brings with him years of experience managing Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) properties. LPHI is a wholly owned subsidiary of ALI, the country's only full-line property developer.

Assuring smooth service

Apart from overseeing that common areas are well-kept and security is available 24/7, Kasiban provides a wide range of services.

When they have settled in, he answers all their queries about the utility systems and the delivery of water, electricity and other essentials.

Residents can run anytime to Kasiban for a host of other concerns such as clogged sinks, keys locked in, leaking taps, receiving a parcel while a unit owner is out, or where to buy indoor plants.

No nails used in sword-shaped structure

AMAZING STRUCTURES

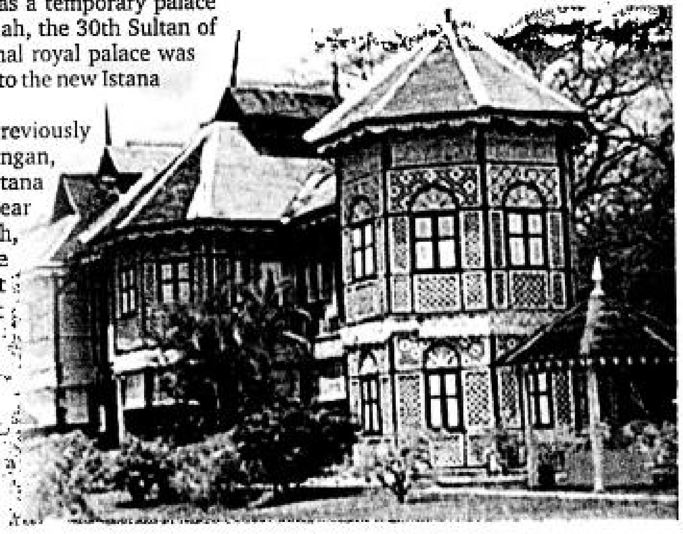
A PALACE built without any architectural plans and without using a single nail? If you think this is next to impossible, the Malaysians thought otherwise.

The Perak Royal Museum did not have a blueprint when it was planned and built as a temporary palace in 1926. The sword-shaped structure did not require a single nail either. The impressive building's walls were made from woven sliced bamboo and patterned in diamond motifs called the "kelarai." (Our very own "bahay kubo" immediately comes to mind.)

The roof is in the shape of a traditional Malay house with five ridges. Completed in 1931, it was to serve as a temporary palace for Sultan Iskandar Shah, the 30th Sultan of Perak, when the original royal palace was torn down to give way to the new Istana Iskandariah.

The museum was previously known as Istana Kenangan, Istana Tepas and Istana Lembah and stands near the Istana Iskandariah, official palace of the Sultan of Perak, at Kuala Kangsar. It houses the Royal Regalia, photographs of the Royal Family, illustrations and relics of the past and present monarchy in Perak. *Dianne M. Villafuerte*

THE PERAK Royal Museum, built without architectural plans and the use of nails



Making big money in distressed property

PROPERTY-IN-DISTRESS offers a lot of opportunities to real estate investors not only in terms of good profit but also the opportunity of saving the owner's credit standing and remaining equity in the property. In addition, the good image of the neighborhood is restored after rehabilitating dilapidated pieces of property. It also saves the distressed owner from more sleepless nights and gives him a new start with the money saved from the avoided foreclosure.

To learn more techniques on how to profitably invest in distressed properties, Urban Institute of Real Estate invites investors to attend a seminar on "Making Big Money in Distressed Properties" at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Level 2, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, on July 14, from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

The four-hour lecture includes how to solve the owner's problem; the overall strategies; keys to success; how to find distressed property/sellers; how to make your offer; important provisions for your protection; negotiating strategies with owner and lender; common mistakes that should be avoided; valuing property by mini appraisal; many tips on inspecting property, financing, rehabilitating the property, selling the property, documentation and registration, taxation; and other important topics..

Urban Institute is also conducting on the same time and venue a series of other topics, which can be attended separately, as follows: July 4—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What Are Needed to Learn before Investing; July 5—Property Development and HLURB Rules And Regulations; July 6—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; July 7—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects;

July 8—Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal; July 11—How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; July 12—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; July 13—Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration; July 15—Mathematics of Real Estate Investment.

Lecturer is engineer Enrico S. Cruz, who is a licensed real estate consultant and a real estate fellow and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. He placed first in the real estate appraiser's board examinations in 1994 and 8th in the real estate broker's board examination in 1988.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or 0916-426-9174 or by e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

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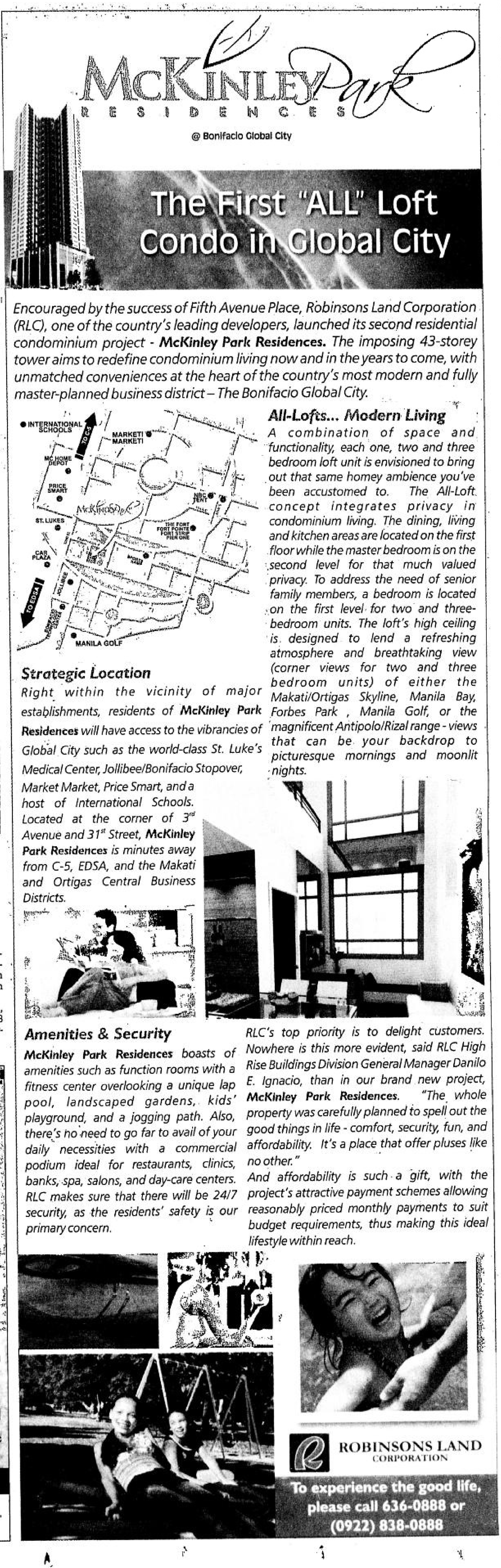

McKINLEY Park
RESIDENCES
@ Bonifacio Global City

The First "ALL" Loft Condo in Global City

Encouraged by the success of Fifth Avenue Place, Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC), one of the country's leading developers, launched its second residential condominium project - ***McKinley Park Residences.*** *The imposing 43-storey tower aims to redefine condominium living now and in the years to come, with unmatched conveniences at the heart of the country's most modern and fully master-planned business district – The Bonifacio Global City.*

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PIER ONE
CAR PLAZA
JOLLIBEE
TO EDSA
MANILA GOLF

Strategic Location

Right within the vicinity of major establishments, residents of ***McKinley Park Residences*** *will have access to the vibrancies of Global City such as the world-class St. Luke's Medical Center, Jollibee/Bonifacio Stopover, Market Market, Price Smart, and a host of International Schools. Located at the corner of 3rd Avenue and 31st Street,* ***McKinley Park Residences*** *is minutes away from C-5, EDSA, and the Makati and Ortigas Central Business Districts.*

All-Lofts... Modern Living

A combination of space and functionality, each one, two and three bedroom loft unit is envisioned to bring out that same homey ambience you've been accustomed to. The All-Loft concept integrates privacy in condominium living. The dining, living and kitchen areas are located on the first floor while the master bedroom is on the second level for that much valued privacy. To address the need of senior family members, a bedroom is located on the first level for two and three-bedroom units. The loft's high ceiling is designed to lend a refreshing atmosphere and breathtaking view (corner views for two and three bedroom units) of either the Makati/Ortigas Skyline, Manila Bay, Forbes Park , Manila Golf, or the magnificent Antipolo/Rizal range - views that can be your backdrop to picturesque mornings and moonlit nights.

Amenities & Security

McKinley Park Residences *boasts of amenities such as function rooms with a fitness center overlooking a unique lap pool, landscaped gardens, kids' playground, and a jogging path. Also, there's no need to go far to avail of your daily necessities with a commercial podium ideal for restaurants, clinics, banks, spa, salons, and day-care centers. RLC makes sure that there will be 24/7 security, as the residents' safety is our primary concern.*

RLC's top priority is to delight customers. Nowhere is this more evident, said RLC High Rise Buildings Division General Manager Danilo E. Ignacio, than in our brand new project, ***McKinley Park Residences.*** *"The whole property was carefully planned to spell out the good things in life - comfort, security, fun, and affordability. It's a place that offer pluses like no other."*

And affordability is such a gift, with the project's attractive payment schemes allowing reasonably priced monthly payments to suit budget requirements, thus making this ideal lifestyle within reach.

ROBINSONS LAND
CORPORATION

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Palafox Creates Plan for New Satellite City

Leading real estate developer Cathay Land had ambitious plans for its 250-hectare project in the booming Sta. Rosa-Silang-Tagaytay business and residential hub. Cathay Land President Jeffrey Ng envisioned it to be a self-sustaining satellite city, wherein education, religion, sports, and leisure choices all combine to create an invigorating neighborhood lifestyle for residents.

Since this type of development meant setting the highest standards, Cathay Land relied on leading master planner Palafox and Associates to plan the whole city. The architectural firm, under Managing Partner and Founder Arch. Felino Palafox Jr., has designed award-winning and distinctive projects in the Philippines and 15 other countries. It is the only firm from Southeast Asia among the world's Top 200 architectural firms as rated by *World Architecture* magazine.

Golf Life: Dad can practice his putting and play with his neighbors and business partners on a regular basis.

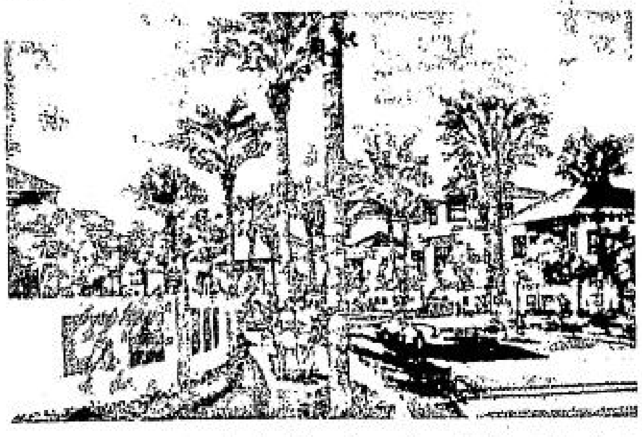
Palafox described the South Forbes site as "very versatile. South Forbes Golf City will actually be part of the expanded Metropolis by 2020." He noted that South Forbes' prime location gives residents and business locators proximity to the business districts of Makati and Alabang as well as the south's enchanting beaches and all-weather golf courses.

The concepts of "New Urbanism" were implemented in the master plan of South Forbes to make the City at par with the best master planned developments in America and Europe. It brings residents back to the "old days," where everything is walkable and bikeable. This closely-knit City encourages social interaction. Houses are free of constricting walls. Porches and wide open windows allow everyone a sight of what's happening around, thus also providing a hindrance to crimes.

Pocket parks with amenities and verdant foliage dot the neighborhoods, giving every resident a chance to enjoy tennis or ball sports after a five-minute walk. Main clubhouses, meanwhile, were strategically located and were designed consistent with the architectural theme of each residential cluster. The lush foliage of trees along the linear parks brings in fresh air.

Palafox narrated, "As you drive along South Forbes, you will appreciate the landscaped features and curved roads. The incorporation of the natural terrain into the development allows you to appreciate the changing vista of houses as well. On the other hand, rotundas and paved intersections create a strong sense of arrival. You realize you are now in a different place." For the commercial area along the main avenue of South Boulevard, Palafox designed a unique arcaded sidewalk to promote public safety and protection. This pedestrian-friendly rendition allows residents to freely go from one restaurant to the next shop, convenience store, or Internet café.

Family Time: Each village clubhouse at South Forbes features family-oriented amenities such as swimming pools, landscaped playgrounds, and al fresco dining areas.



Quaint Village: South Forbes is designed according to the "New Urbanism" concept to promote neighborhood interaction.

The restaurant row of the commercial area also brews social interaction, or "social intercourse" as Palafox likes to put it. "While the South Forbes area enjoys cool breezes, the atmosphere at the commercial area is designed to be warm, where people can be friendly and neighborly to one another," he surmised.

For a full appreciation of Palafox's New Urbanism-inspired master plan for South Forbes Golf City, please call (02) 635-8108, (02) 636-4647 or check out *www.cathaylandinc.com*.

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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super!Countdown

It's our 107th issue!

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

hello garci

Super! exclusive! scoop! **Filipino** page F1 designs for Diesel

The return of 'Derelicte' page E1

Gwen & AJ on tape! page D2

Oh no, Ayyoyo! page C3

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: APRIL SON
Styling: PUEY QUIÑONES
Makeup: XENG ZULUETA of Shu Uemura
Cover Stars: GWEN GARCI and AJ DEE

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Cleaning the mess

'How do you scare a group of models? Offer them dessert'

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

IT'S NOT often that people can spark a revolution. There are many non-conformists but they do not necessarily inspire a people into action. Some try to make a statement through scandal or intrigue, because it's easier. There is "shock therapy" conveyed via jolting (often gory) images, inappropriate words or phrases in order to create an impact. These are heavily ingrained in media, as most viewers and readers have shorter and shorter attention spans, so the theme of the subject must give as much information as possible in the quickest possible time.

This weekend let's shift our attention away from the outside world and focus on an internal revolution that could take place within minutes. When was the last time you were moved to do something that was for change? Not necessarily for the rest of mankind but for yourself? What I am going to explain is certainly not an original thought and it has been practiced by many civilizations before me. It has the power to rid one of excess... and we have all heard that too much of a good thing... is, well, not really good at all.

It's called fasting, and no, fasting is not necessarily starving. I remember a rather cruel (but funny joke) a colleague once shared with me in the past. "How do you scare a group of models?" "Offer them dessert:" (ha ha) Ok, my apologies for the generalization. I guess I'm proud (and a bit ashamed) of my tremendous appetite, and for that, someone like me has to resort to fasting every once in a while. Why fasting? Some may call it a purge, or a cleanse. Call it what you will but one to two days of no taking in of solids or impure liquids (alcoholic or softdrink beverages) will give your digestive system a rest.

Look under the hood

There are days that you feel sluggish, in a bad mood, unmotivated and uninspired. You call to your inner muses to help you out and they don't seem to be listening. Of course there may be other factors and there may be too many to list down here, but always bear in mind that whatever you put INSIDE your body sooner or later is going to affect what goes on outside. If you love your car you would never put the wrong kind of petrol in it, you take it for tune-ups, oil changes, get its tires checked... what about your body? When was the last time you looked under your hood? (I can bet it's in a bit of a mess.)

It's not going to affect your muscle mass or weight maintenance if you decide to stop exercising for two days. If you fast properly you can continue to be active during the fast; but again, not excessively. Cut your gym or cardio workout to half of what you normally do, that way the body is still moving and burning what it needs but is not getting too tired. And remember, the body was made to move, but at the same time, it needs to recharge. When the body is at rest, the mind is allowed rest too. There is less stress involved since (in my opinion) the hardest working system that we 24/7 food loving Filipinos possess is the digestive one.

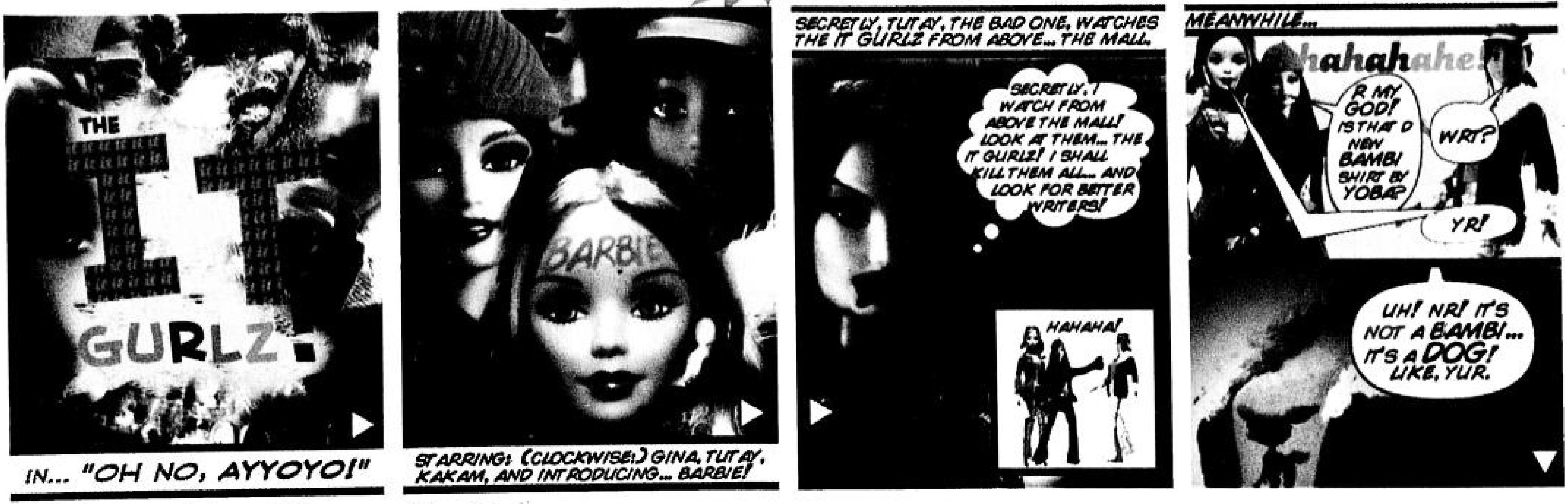
We often want to take breaks from work, from people and that's why we do something to just "get" away. So now and then, if you want an internal overhaul then the best way to do it is to give your stomach a rest. This is not easy to do, and you have to possess the proper mindset to see it through. Looking at the bigger picture, for one day of no junk food, no animal products, and no sweets, you may get a clearer mind, deeper sleep and rejuvenation. Your body doesn't have to work as hard during a fast, and your mind is at ease because instead of thinking of where the next meal is coming from (aside from the millions of other things it has to think of) it has one less task to be responsible for.

No limit

All you need is a steady supply of mineral water (not distilled, mineral, so read your labels) and a bunch of American lemons (look, there are no substitutes here so calamansi is not going to cut it). Take your room temperature glass of water with a squeeze of lemon. There is no limit, take as much as you can from the minute you wake up to the minute you sleep, and remember, don't gulp, sip or drink in a relaxed state. Be aware of what you're doing and you will feel more relaxed and less anxious.

Fasting gives one more time for contemplation. Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims often fast because they say a clean body gives one a clean mind and a heightened sense and stronger connection to the divine. Need inspiration? Experience the absolute high of a body that has rid itself of some internal garbage.

If we don't start with our bodies, then the very vehicle that houses our creative minds, our passionate hearts and our enlightened spirits will not take us to where we want to go next. Time to clean up.


THE IT GURLZ!
IN... "OH NO, AYYOYO!"
BARBIE
STARRING: (CLOCKWISE:) GINA, TUTAY, KAKAM, AND INTRODUCING... BARBIE!
SECRETLY, TUTAY, THE BAD ONE, WATCHES THE IT GURLZ FROM ABOVE... THE MALL.
SECRETLY, I WATCH FROM ABOVE THE MALL! LOOK AT THEM... THE IT GURLZ! I SHALL KILL THEM ALL... AND LOOK FOR BETTER WRITERS!
HAHAHA!
MEANWHILE...
hahahahe!
R MY GOD! IS THAT D NEW BAMBI SHIRT BY YOBA?
WRT?
YR!
UH! NR! IT'S NOT A BAMBI... IT'S A DOG! LIKE, YUR.

The It Gurlz!

The It Gurlz! take on the most dangerous rodent on earth!

Comic strip and text by Pepe Diokno

A message from The It Gurlz:

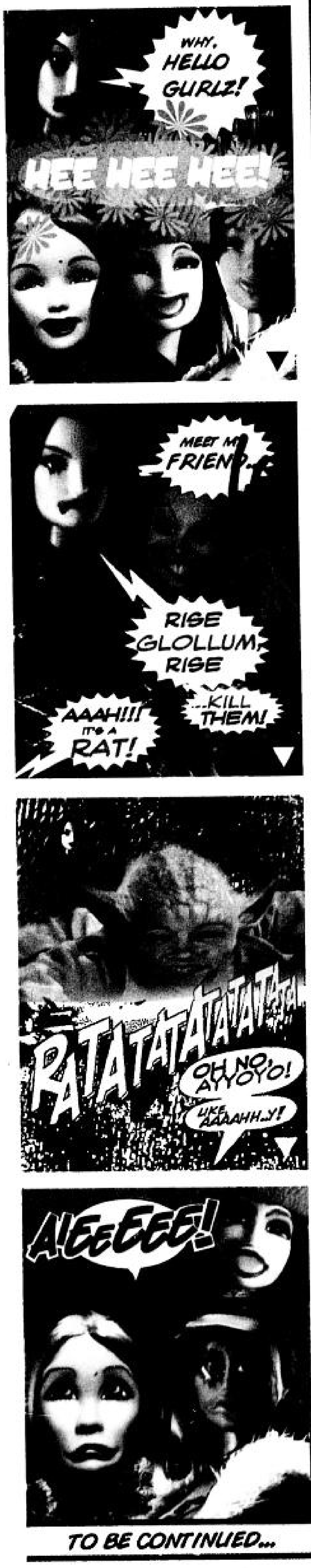
"Hello! This is a story about a girl named THE IT GURLZ! We're **Barbie** (thank you) **Kakam** (*Tenk yo!*), and **Gina** (Hmph!) We're a happy-go-lucky type of friends, but we have a *kaaway*.

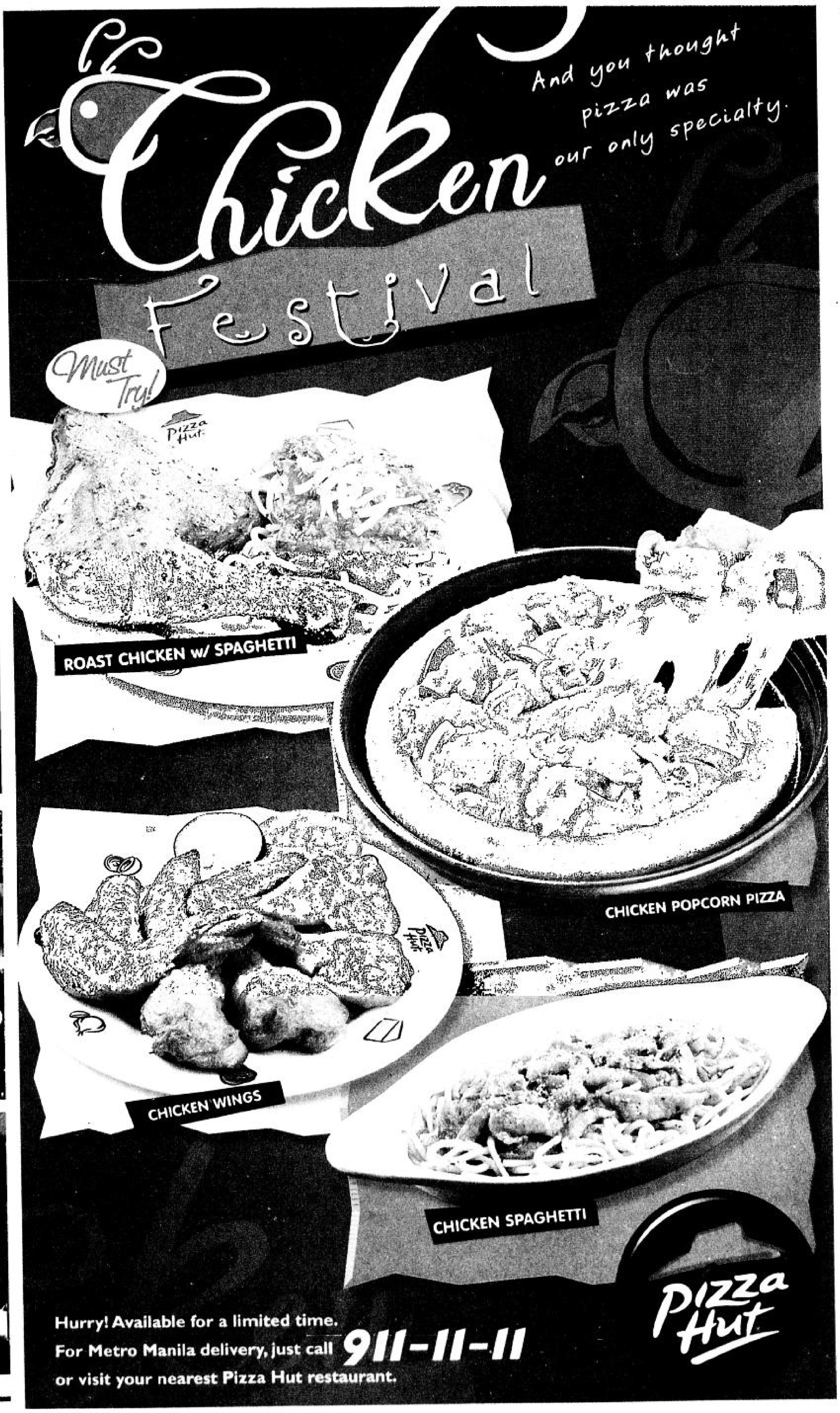
"Yeah, she's bad. She's **Tutay**! She always wants to kill us, you know? You know? She always tells her friends to kill us.

"...But we always kill... THEM! Like, *ur* my *gohd*. Yay!

"That's all. Follow our adventures! *Alabshu* you all. Yay!"

—The It Gurlz!


WHY, HELLO GURLZ!
HEE HEE HEE!
MEET MY FRIEND...
RISE GLOLLUM, RISE
...KILL THEM!
AAAH!!! IT'S A RAT!
RATATATATATATATA
OH NO, AYYOYO!
LIKE AAAAHH...Y!
AIEEEEE!
TO BE CONTINUED...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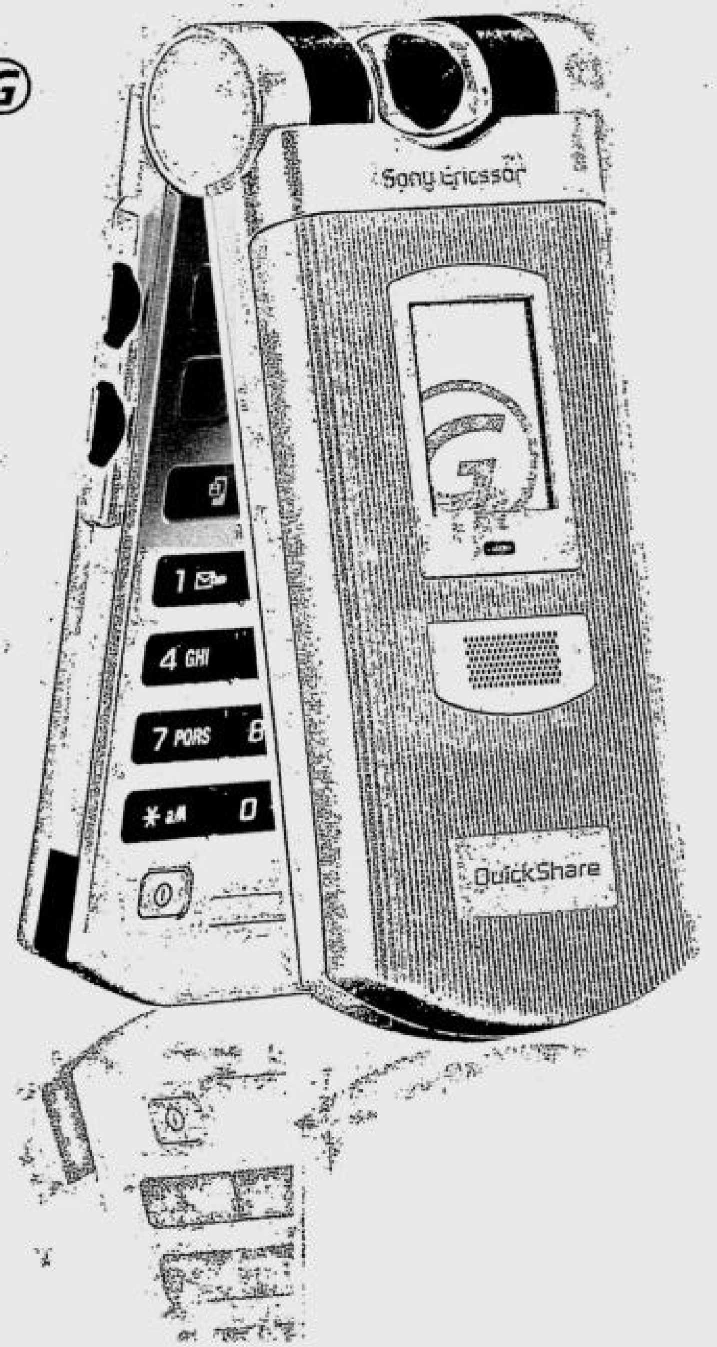

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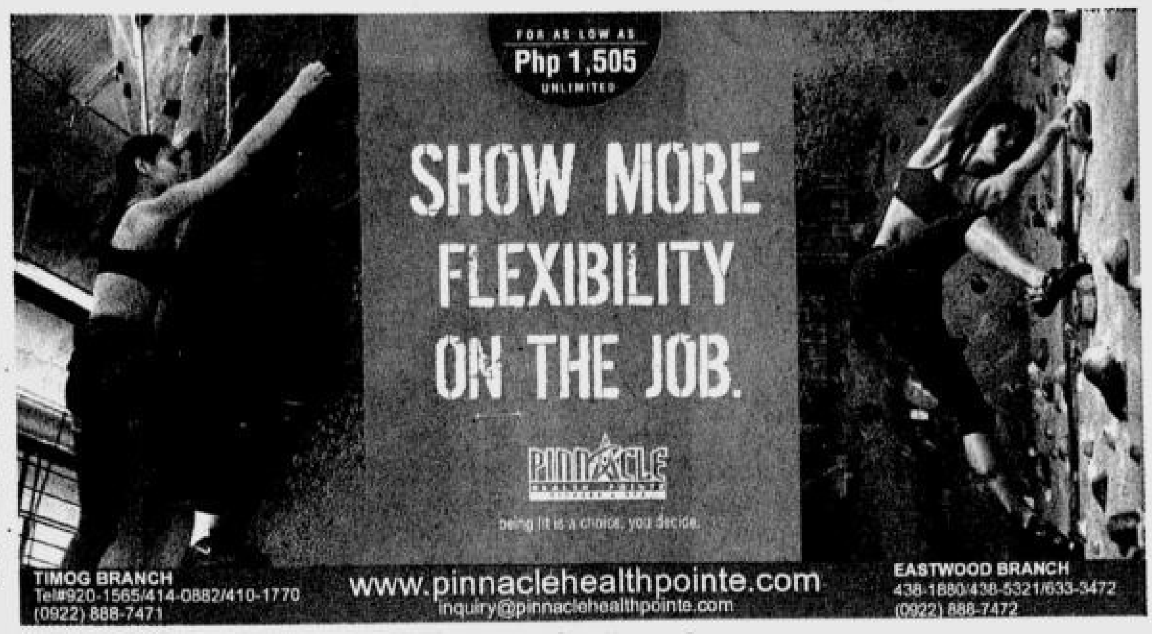
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Pimping your phone

Tim Yap

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has replaced **Kris Aquino** in the mobile technology race. Of late, Kris has been the mobile box office queen when it comes to downloading services. I remember overhearing a colleague of mine answer her phone with the instant greeting of *"O ha! Ano'ng tsismis?"*

And now, political scandal has replaced show-biz gossip as the number one source of entertainment, even if Kris has announced her plans of marrying **James Yap** (no relation). Gloria is still tops with her "Hello Garci" clip. All of a sudden, **Paris Hilton** seems so passé.

According to this paper's front pages, demand for the ring tones was so big that txtpower.org, crashed within one hour of uploading last Friday. Inq7.net put it on their site as a breaking story (based on an INQUIRER report), and immediately people were able to download the controversial clip for free. Our very own**Pepe Diokno** was able to forward it to a couple of his super friends but failed to send me a copy, knowing that I am not as tech savvy as I seem (FYI, I am not on Friendster—at all. All I have on the net is an Addict mobile blog where I post pictures that I take with my mobile phone—but that's another story.)

As of today, there are about five other remixes of the "Hello Garci" tape, including "In da Club," "Bikining Itim," and "Ice Ice Baby." DJs should seriously play this in the clubs, too. Imagine yourself dancing in Embassy Super Club to the tune of "Hello Garci" remixed with your favorite house tunes. Thump-thump-thump-hello-Garci-hello-Garci!

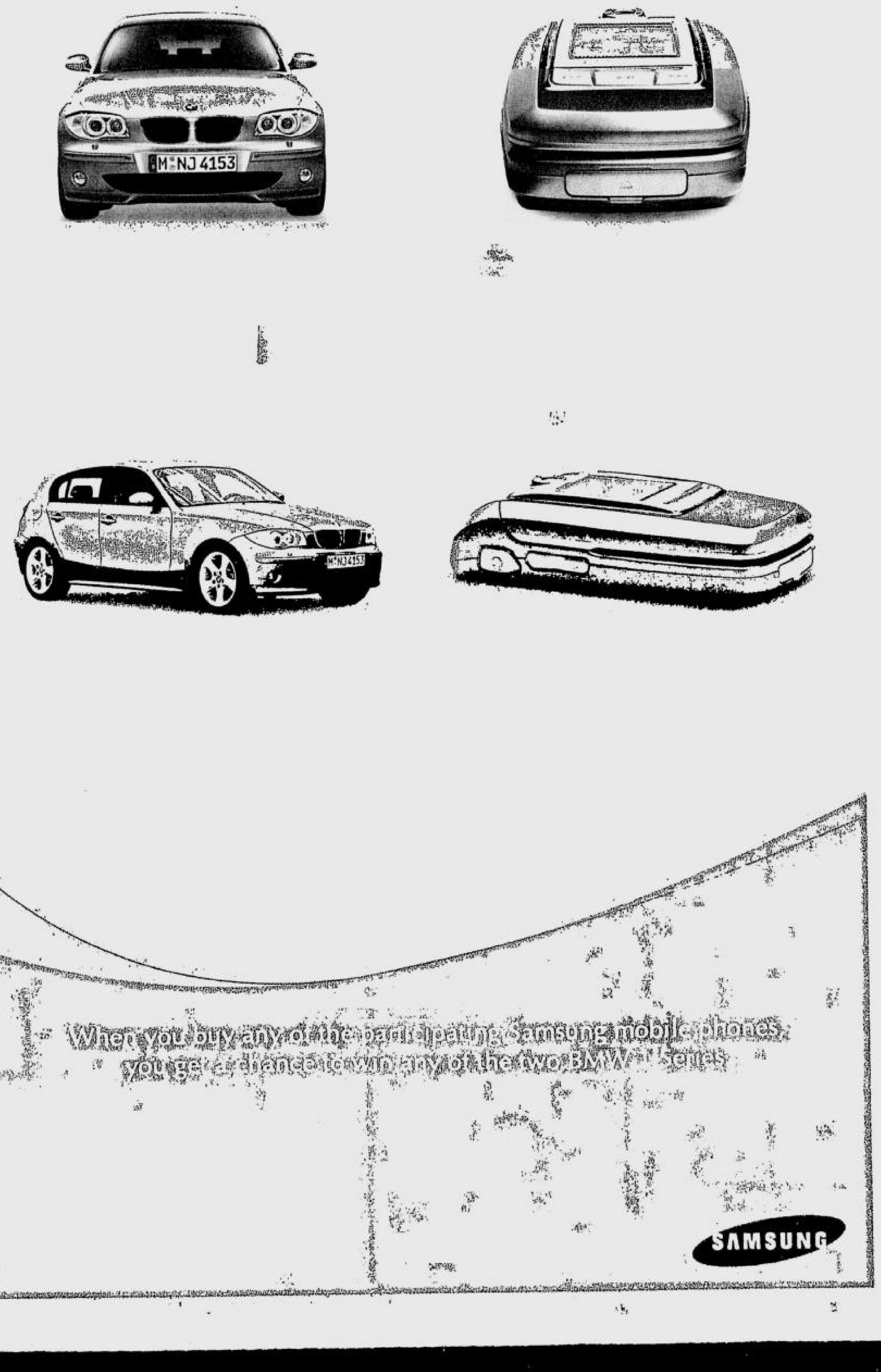
Indeed we are the texting capital of the world, with MMS services about to follow suit. The rise of mobile content providers like Chikka Asia, Information Gateway and Egg have given us cell phone users with much more than we bargained for, making us, the consumers, the winners in this mobile mania. (That is unless, you overspend on roaming internationally the charges can trigger you to crash on your own. Ouch!) Now we can talk to our favorite stars and hear them talk about their day to day stuff (which they like to do anyway), subscribe to our favorite news service to get updates on the latest gigs happening around town, even listen to our own horoscope at the beginning of the day!

Yapstrology—okay, accuse me of being addicted to myself, but I am, as my friend describes me, "slightly" vain, for good reasons. These days loving yourself is as important as loving others, make that part of your personal commandments, please. Every day, have an inner dialogue with and ask yourself, "How am I feeling?" Absolutely great! Spectacularly spectacular! You'll feel the marked change in your outlook and you'll be more than ready to start your day.

I don't know when my addiction to horoscopes began. It just became a daily habit. I used to read it at the end of the day just to check if it was accurate. "You weren't born on that particular day for no reason—no such thing as coincidence," as the Da Vinci's of this world would say. Indeed, the stars do have something to do with the flow of the universe. Couple that with our own free will, plus the laws of karma, and we get what we deserve in life.

Okay, don't get me wrong—I am not about to become some love-all hippie chick—I leave that to Super!'s **Tals Diaz**. But I think that the so-called "Age of Aquarius" is really upon us. With the whole world retorting to high technology, there has been this spiritual backlash that's been quite prevalent of late, thus the re-

PIMPING/ D2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Hello, Hello...?

The biggest investigation outside the Senate involves an unidentified woman believed to be Gwen Garci

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

AH, GWEN... (Okay, waking up now.) Super! has affected our lives in many ways—well in one major way—Super! gave us the chance to interview the Garci—Viva Hotbabe, *FHM* cover girl, star of really well-made movies and about 9,332,313 dreams a night—yup, Gwen Garci.

We sneaked in a few questions to Gwen, whose real name is Mai Lee Ang (which is Chinese, and Chinese is the nationality of Zhang Ziyi, who looks like Gwen Garci. We made a cycle!). And we were surprised—she was really accommodating. (It's either that or that she's attracted to one of us—and though we fight over who, we both agree that it's the latter.)

After the shoot-slash-interview, we wanted to get to know our "subject" better... so we went undercover as crazed Viva Hot Babes fans named John Rosendahl and Mao Taylor. After following her, these were what we found out: One, she's a girl. Two, she's a girl who likes. Three, she's a girl who likes... world peace.

Okay, on to more serious (and meaningful) stuff!

Who was the last person you spoke to this morning? My brother. I told him that I'm going home to Baguio soon and that he should prepare my room there.

Who were you with at midnight? *(Thinks... smiles...)* My pillow.

When was the last time you cried? May 28th. I fought with a close friend.

When was the last time you got drunk? Last Friday night.

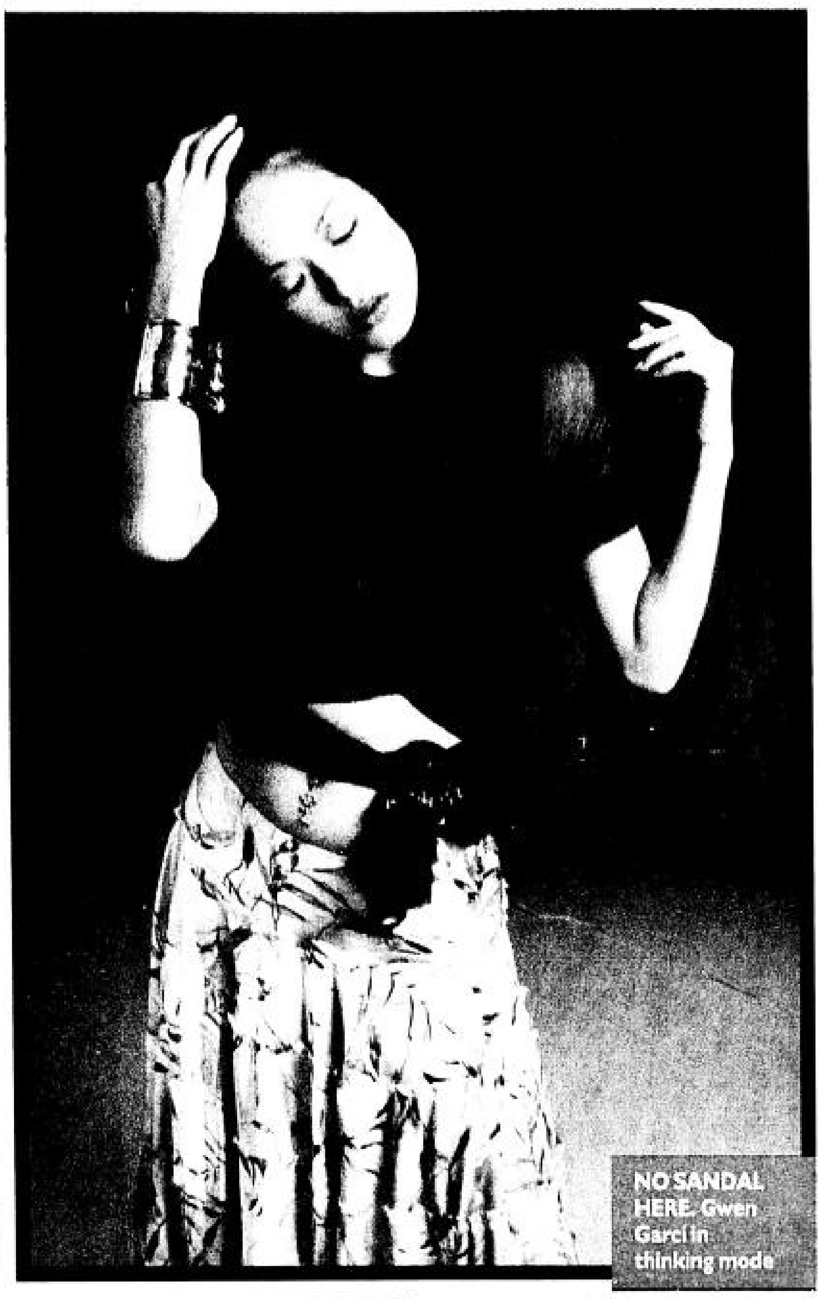
Which celebrity do you secretly fancy? *(Smiles)* Definitely Orlando Bloom. Oh, and Mr. Smith—Brad Pitt.

Who would you like to swap place with for 24 hours? Angelina Jolie. Especially now. *(Laughs)*

What's your favorite item of clothing? I love funky pieces like tops from Morgan and jeans from Diesel. I like standing out all the time.

What is your dream role? A role where I portray an action star!

What's the weirdest fan experience you've ever had? There was this one girl who approached and wanted to kiss me. So I thought it would just be a beso-beso. But no! She grabbed my face with her two hands and kissed me on the lips! I didn't know what to do!


NO SANDAL HERE. Gwen Garci in thinking mode

Do you have any interests that people don't know about... yet? *(Thinks for a long time then laughs)* It's weird but ever since, I've been so interested in politics. I love reacting to issues. I would be like, "*Mali ang pagpapatakbo! Puro* corruption!" I'm interested in this because I think that we all should aspire a time when we can say that we're really proud to be Pinoy. *(Pauses)* We really need a good president!

Paraphrase that other Gwen: "This ___ is BANANAS." This WORLD is BANANAS!

When did you last cook for yourself? A long, long, long time ago. Back when I was still with my ex-boyfriend.

I would never... ever leave my parents whatever happens.

What makes you sexy? I carry myself well... and I'm mysterious and *pakipot*.

Ooh, don't touch my... boobs... and my family too.

How crazy can you get? I can do whatever and go wherever. But my close friends say I'm pretty conservative in real life.

How would Super! Gwen save the industry? We *Pinoys* are smart. What we lack is technology and I'm going to save the TV and movie industry by addressing that problem if given the chance.

PHOTOS BY APRIL SON, MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA OF SHU UEMURA, CLOTHES AND STYLING BY PUEY QUIÑONES, ACCESSORIES BY ARNEL PAPA

Zip-A-Dee-Doo

There are a few good AJs out there: AJ McLean of the BB Boyz, AJ Abayari of the Betamax Scandal, Ask Jeeves of the Internet geeks, AJ Trauth of Even Stevens, Ajax of the Trojan War and AJ Salcedo (okay I just made that up). Meet another one

By James Gabrillo

HERE are few random essentials about AJ Dee: He graduated with a degree in Management in Ateneo de Naga. He became a part of the theater gang in the same university and realized his love for acting. He started out in the auditions room of a hosting competition then he went on to modeling. He is busy taping for ABS-CBN's latest cry-me-a-river-ho, *"Vietnam Rose"* at present. He has an earring on his left ear. His iPod is the same color as mine. Yay.

If you Google "AJ Dee," the first link shall lead you to the guestbook of a certain human suspiciously named "Batman_927" who asks his visitors questions like, *"Sino ang lab mo?"* and *"Sino ang Paborits mong Superhero?"* A certain "Anna" answered "AJ DEE" to both questions. I will grant you a few minutes to check that out now.

In this grilling, he is seated in front of me, recurrently pausing in between queries to light his *Marlboros*. One speck I observed, the guy thinks for a long time before replying to the questions. At one point, he closed his eyes, puffed a smoke, laughed and said *"Ang hirap naman!"*

During the post-interview moments (aka "propel-away-the-notebook-and-pen-and-just-bum-around" time), AJ started to converse about politics—FPJ, Erap, GMA, and their very naughty advisers. He talked about how we *Pinoys* are stuck in this colossal continual cycle where we have, umm, crappy people as tribal leaders. According to him, if he was the president, his first move would be to declare Martial Law. Yay. Not.

Who was the last person you spoke to this morning? My manager, Tito Boy Abunda. We talked about the recent intrigues about me. Also, we talked about badminton.

WANNA buzz me? AJ dishes the weekend gossip

Who were you with at midnight? No one... I was all alone.

What was the last meal you cooked for yourself and when? Yesterday, I prepared instant noodles. Does that count? *(Laughs)* I just came from Vietnam taping my new *teleserye*. Our flight got delayed and I had no money... luckily I had instant noodles inside my suitcase!

When was the last time you cried? Two days ago... because of a girl.

When was the last time you got drunk? A long time ago. I don't really drink. I go to bars and clubs just once or twice a month.

Which celebrity do you secretly fancy? *(Smiles)* I like Angelica Panganiban.

Have you ever stolen anything? When I was in high school, yes... money from my mommy. *(Laughs)*

What's the weirdest fan experience you've ever had? There was this gay fan who was asking for my autograph then he suddenly grabbed me down there. I ran for my life!

Tell us something strange about you. When I was in college, I was still peeing in bed at night. I couldn't control it! My mommy would laugh at me.

What's your favorite item of clothing? Shoes. I own more than 50 pairs. I like *Chuck Taylors*—white rugged ones.

Do you have any interests that people don't know about... yet? Painting. My

PINK H2O. Hindy Weber-Tantoco and Happy David

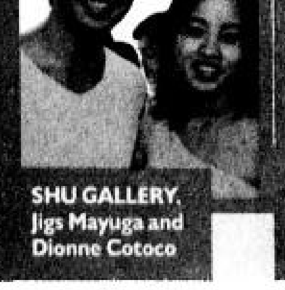
SHU EXPO. Lex Ledesma and Tina Daniac

MAKEUP MUSE. Our favorite Xeng Zulueta

SHU INFINITY. Tina Tinio and Tom Valderrama

KERASTASE DUO. Girlie Castro and Patricia Poco

K LIST EXPERT. Angelique Villaraza of Kerastase


SHU GALLERY. Jigs Mayuga and Dionne Cotoco

CROUCHING TIGER. Hidden... Tessa Dragon

Pimping your p

From page D1

naissance of the arts, music, yoga, astrology and everything back-to-basic. It's always comforting to know that outside this mess, that there is relevant truth to be found in the systems of the ancients. After all, the stars were the first place we could turn to expand our mind.

One of the reasons I got involved with astrology (or Yapstrology, for that matter), is that I have found it helpful to have some direction on days when you wake up on the wrong side of the bed. I have a very positive attitude. Nonetheless, consulting my charts allows me to prepare myself for any bumps on the road. Think of it as checking the weather report. But in the end, it's still up to you on what you'll decide to bring for what's coming your way.

So if you're sick of the never-ending GMA wiretap scandal or speculating Kris Aquino's love life, text TIMYAP to 3262 (for Smart subscribers) and you'll hear me talk about your stars (career, love and your life!) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Fun! Fun! Fun! Party! Party! Party!

Life in pink

What's with the world these days? Everything is turning pink and pretty, it seems. L'Oreal Kerastase just launched their pink Reflection line, **Rajo Laurel** turned a year younger by throwing an all pink bash, and Shu Uemura has just launched their pink cleansing oil.

SHU UEMURA'S cleansing oil bottle and Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo's limited edition Sakura Bag

I mention all these super brands in one breath because I swear by all of them. Kerastase's Recherche Avencee L'Oreal (don't ask me to pronounce it), an advanced science in fibrionics gives your hair a real mirror effect, reflecting light from root to tip for an immediate, long lasting shine. Just check out my hair-

SHU SHOPPING. Gino de la Paz with his goodie bags

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-Dah!

medium is acrylic and oil. My style is abstract. I do it when I'm in the mood to.

Who would you like to swap place with for 24 hours? Is it okay if he's dead already? It would have to be Albert Einstein. He had this amazing capability to create and I'd want to experience that.

What is your biggest vice? Film. I love movies. I go for love stories like *Romeo and Juliet*, *Jerry Maguire* and *Sweet November*. I really spend on these types of titles.

I would never... kill.

I owe my life to God, my family and... my mentors. There are so many of them I should be thankful for of having.

What is your dream role? I only realized this now... what I really want is to portray a psycho-killer. It gives this extraordinary impact on the audience.

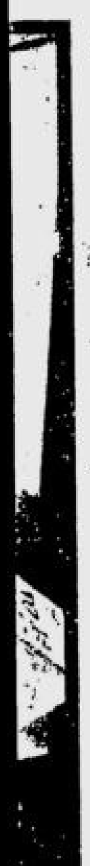
How crazy can you get? I would walk naked in public. *(Laughs)* Maybe I'm just saying that... but really, I'm not that crazy in real life.

What makes you high? Music. No drugs needed... *(Laughs)* I'm into house and alternative, like *Switchfoot* and *Goo Goo Dolls*.

If Super! wiretapped you for a day, what are we going to hear? Me talking to my best friend about my *kalokahan* with girls. *(Laughs)*

How would Super! AJ save the industry? It all comes down to piracy. That's what I'm going to attack and solve.

hone

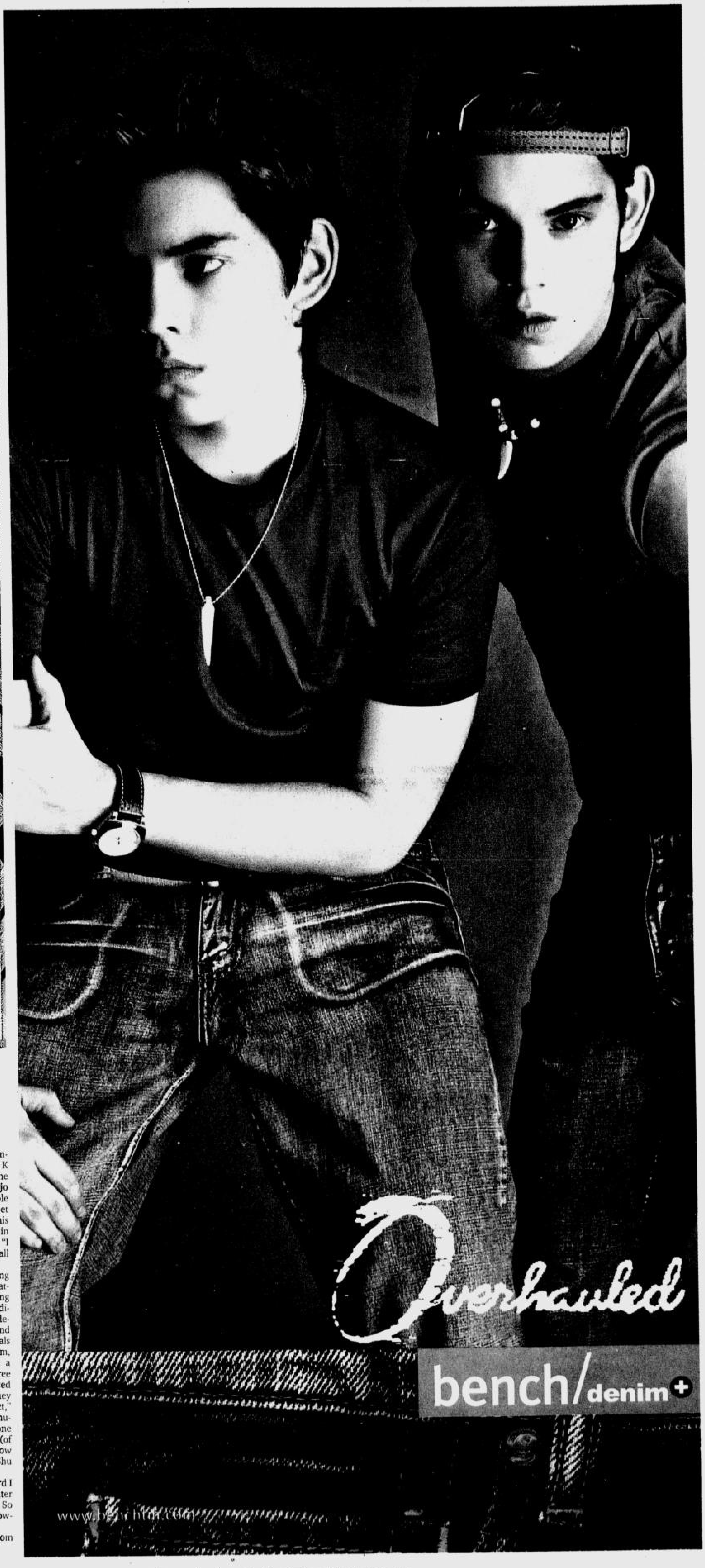


swoosh, swoosh. Their launch at Embassy Super Club drew the city's K list crowd. That's Kerastase—the leader in hair care, mind you. **Rajo Laurel**, who is the one responsible for my red (okay, now pink) carpet attire, recently chose pink to be his signature color, with the waiters in his party wearing shirts with "I pinked Rajo. I wanna pink Rajo" all over them. Kool.

And Shu Uemura's best selling magic cleansing oil launched its latest pink variant at The Drawing Room art gallery with a limited edition pouch, cuff and ornament designed by **Yvonne Quisumbing** and HG for Shu Uemura (even the visuals for the campaign were done by them, another first for Filipinos). "It's a transformer concept where all three items can stand alone and be used separately, but put together, they have a more overwhelming impact," said the queen of impact, Shu Uemura's **Tina Tinio**. I can see everyone now rushing to the Shu counters (of which the Manila branch is now number one, worldwide—bravo Shu team Philippines!)

Which brings to mind a billboard I spotted somewhere saying "Brighter colors equals brighter tomorrow." So think pink, think blue, think yellow-think rainbow! Super!

"The most certain sign of wisdom is continual cheerfulness."



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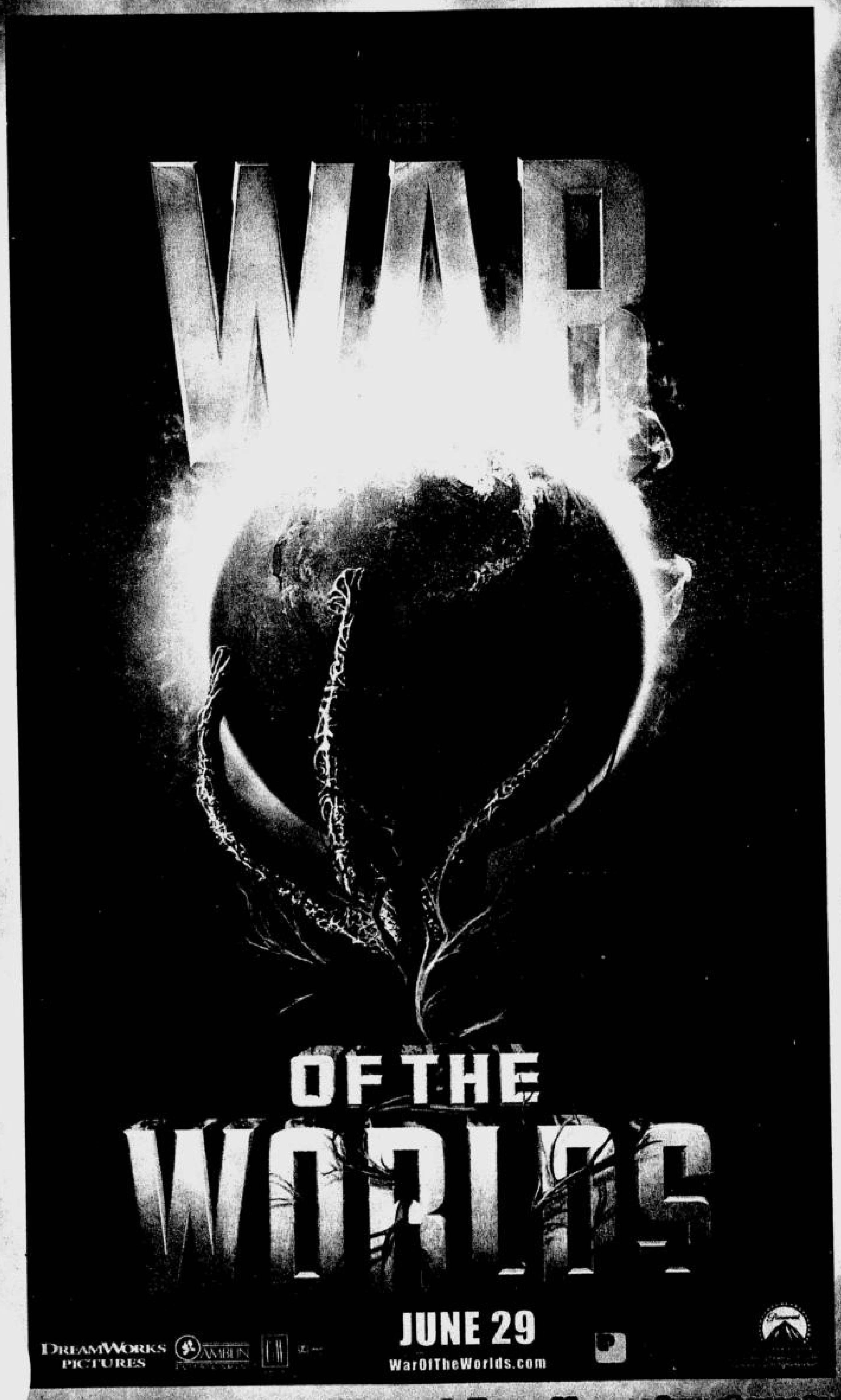

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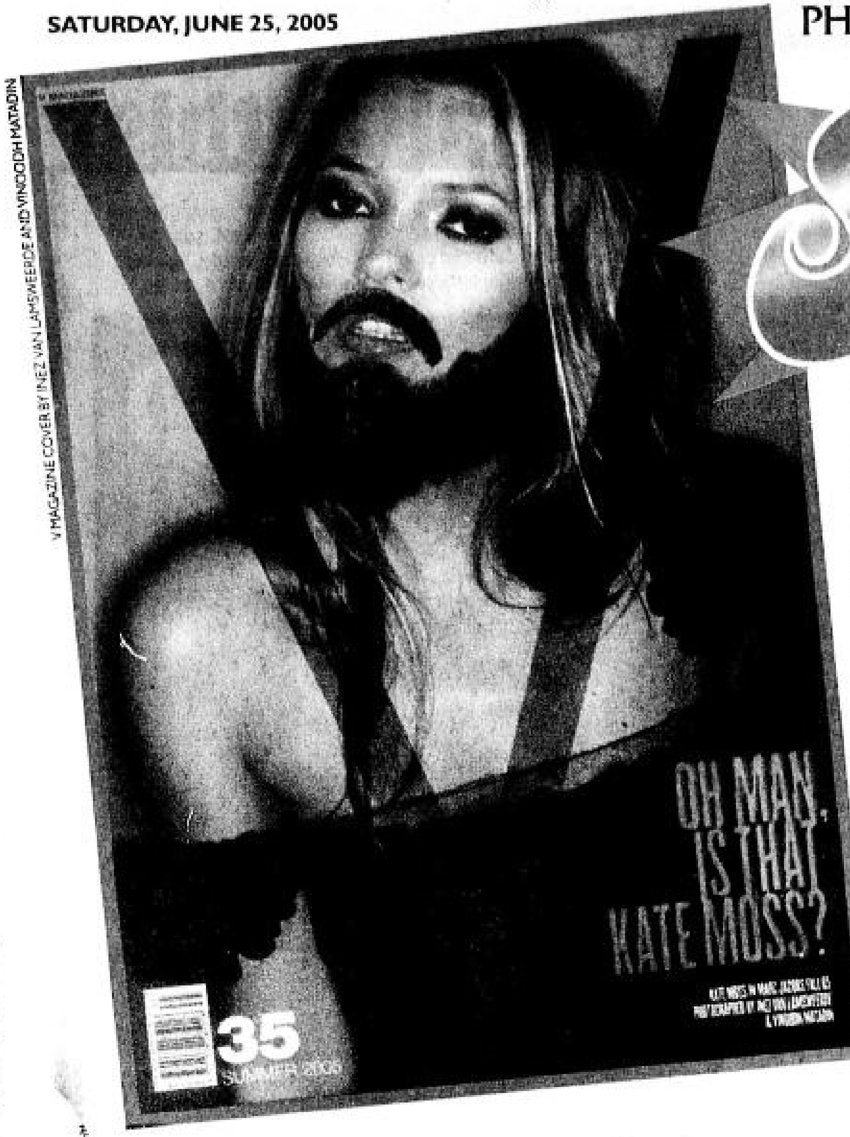
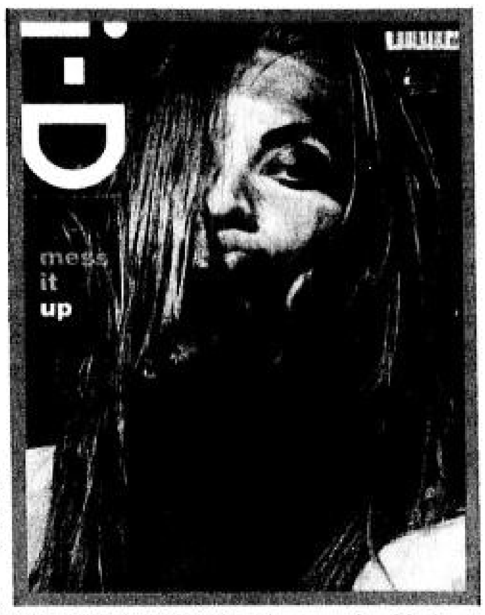


Deface value

Since everyone seems to be so polished these days, is it finally time to mess things up?

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz



DIRTY PRETTY THING. Photographer Mario Sorrenti's first i-D Magazine cover

DOES the name Jacobim Mugatu ring a bell? If it doesn't, it should after this brief recap.

A cross between French designer Jean-Paul Gaultier and Dr. Evil from the "Austin Powers" franchise, Jacobim Mugatu (Will Ferrell) is the creatively coiffed villain in 2001's farcical take on fashion and modeling, "Zoolander." His physical activity may be limited to holding his poodle, but Mugatu's brand of designer dementia involves unleashing the Piano Necktie onto an unsuspecting planet as well as employing clueless male mannequins to assassinate world leaders and advance immoral business practices.

Mugatu's biggest and most absurd contribution to fictional fashion, however, is still Derelicte. To illustrate this really, really dirty look, a

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Deface value

From page E1

good-looking model opens the show by popping out of a refrigerator box that also, oddly enough, becomes part of her couture dress. Even Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller), star of the runway spectacle, wears a shroud made suspiciously out of black garbage bags. Bums with shopping carts, crack whores with syringes and drifters with nothing to wear—characters such as those inspire Mugatu's hobo-centric Derelicte. Very John Galliano for Dior, don't you think?

Derelicte is apparently "the future of fashion," according to Mugatu. It may have been deliberately created for "Zoolander," but the spirit of Derelicte seems to be stinking up certain style sectors in very tangible ways. Before you quote Zoolander's walk-off challenger, Hansel, and say, "Derelicte my balls!" let's pause, pose and ponder on this new, unpretty chic.

So damn unpretty

A new-generation fashion icon, uncharacteristically short Kate Moss has influenced both designers and fans with her unstudied personal style. The quirky supermodel, however, explores the other end of the beauty spectrum in V35, the Summer 2005 issue of V Magazine.

Shot by Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin, Kate, in a black number from Marc Jacobs Fall 05, sports a clearly fake beard and a half-open mouth that frames her front teeth in a, well, perfect half moon. "It should clearly be drag," writes van Lamsweerde about the cross-dressing cover girl. "Can androgyny take us beyond ourselves?"

Kate's waifish, boobless frame certainly makes her androgynous but the facial fuzz makes her a freak. Van Lamsweerde wanted Kate to look like "the now-version of Hibiscus," star of the 2002 documentary about San Francisco's LSD-fueled, on-stage drag party, "The Cockettes."

"Oh man, is that Kate Moss?" The cover blurb said it best. This gender-bending—or gender-blending, as it were—photograph was, perhaps, van Lamsweerde and Matadin's way of deconstructing Kate Moss. After all, Kate is a certified chameleon who has done every look imaginable from ingénue to temptress and ladylike to little boy. But downright grotesque? This would have to be a first for Kate Moss and all of us, for that matter.

What a mess

Speaking of firsts, July 2005 also marks the i-D Magazine debut of photographer Mario Sorrenti. No. 256, The Occupation Issue, features surnameless IMG model Diana smeared with greasy, black makeup.

Set against a pitch-black background, i-D's July babe looks like she had just emerged from a sewer, an oil slick, or Fallujah, embodying the issue's only cover text, "Mess it up." To steal Sorrenti's contributor's write-up, "Remember, as the saying goes, 'It's not messy, it's creative.'"

! As mandatory reading for media insiders, artistic scenesters and other people-in-the-know, i-D has pushed the boundaries of pop culture, fashion and taste during its 25-year existence. A grubby, scary, and admittedly risky cover like next month's can only work for a decidedly avant-garde publication such as i-D, not for something as mainstream as, say, American Vogue or Harper's Bazaar. For now, that is. The new ugly, as I call it, may look totally severe at this moment, but give it a few seasons and its essence—imperfection, character, grime—will become conventional.

The overt anti-pretty stance of both V and i-D magazines should not be taken as signals to literally deface yourself. Rather, it should be considered a harbinger of an impending backlash against robotic prettiness and cookie-cutter perfection.

If everybody looked the same

A 1999 club track by Groove Armada went, "If everybody looked the same, we'd get tired of looking at each other." Despite being more than half a decade old, that lyric couldn't be more dead-on.

I mean, look around you. From Pinoy celebrities to everyday high school students, everyone seems to be so put-together, impossibly fit, and competently styled. This should be a good thing, an astonishing sign of evolution even, but it becomes just the opposite when everybody starts to look nondescript and interchangeable. For the ladies, it's the bohemian look: circle skirts, flirty tops, colorful, chunky necklaces and wedges. For the dudes, it's still layered preppy: unstructured jackets, bootcut jeans, old school kicks and pop-your-collar polos. And to aggravate this current conveyor belt situation, it doesn't help that everyone—or a majority, at least—has straight, black hair or aspires to have just that.

Even local style publications, with all their pretty, polished and pouty cover stars, are inevitably starting to look alike. No one in the high fashion herd wants to stray from an ultra-glam formula such that no single title sticks out from the newsstands anymore. Possibly appealing more to trend followers than style leaders, our Pinoy fashion monthlies have become concerned with merely staying in tune to what's going on in the world when the time is right to do so, not forecasting a more idiosyncratic, original and awe-inspiring future for their readers.

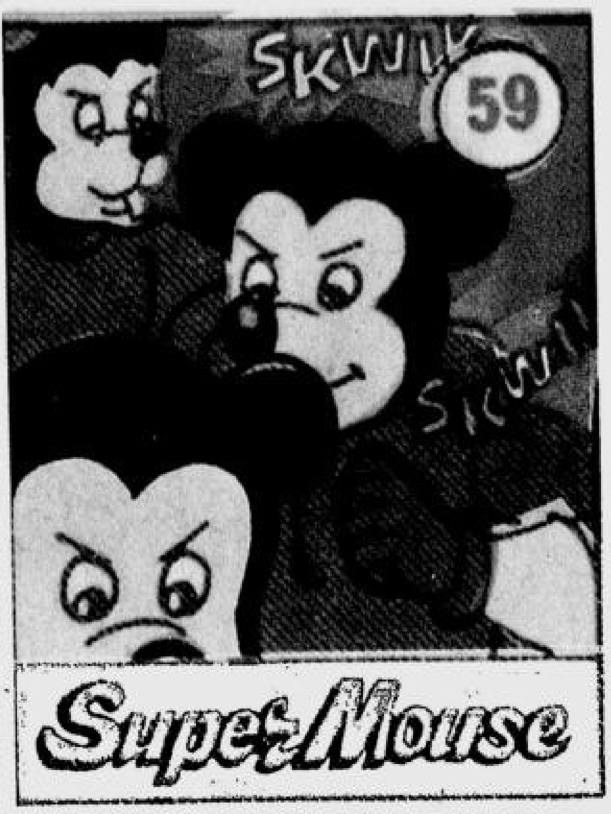
Self-deconstruction

There's nothing wrong with wanting to look picture perfect or sophisticated. However, despite the choices we now have in personal grooming and the absence of previous style restrictions, most people still manage to appear identical. Why is that? While it may be true that not everyone can get away with looking like a train wreck or a bum, things become too safe when one and all guns for the same tried-and-tested principles. See, safe equals boring, and boring equals death.

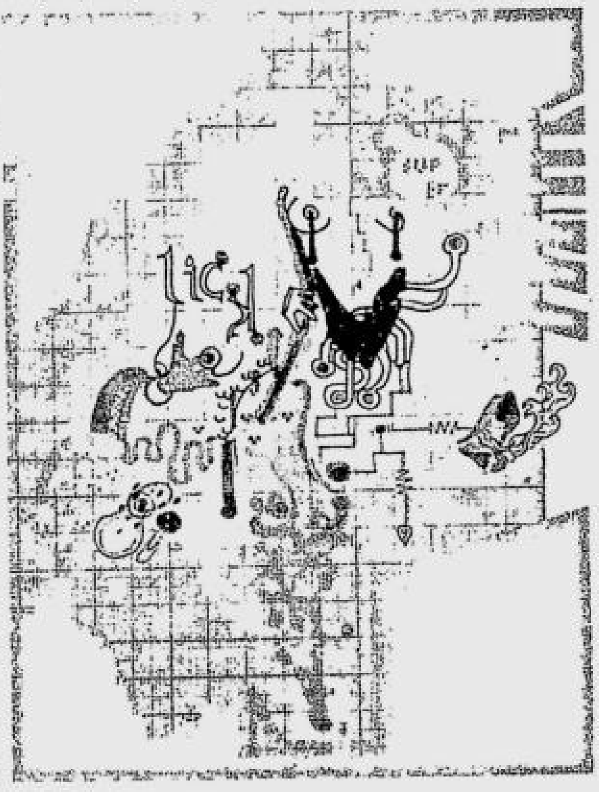
Given the reactionary nature of trends, minimalism is all set to be the next big thing, the antidote to all the prettiness, embellishment, and maximalism the fashion powers-that-be have piled on us these last few years. Aside from returning to clean lines and tailoring, however, I would also like to see self-deconstruction, a willingness to deliberately look less-than-perfect and more human, emerge as another option. Pulling off such a self-deprecating look would be a bigger testament to one's confidence and attractiveness.

Vandalize this!

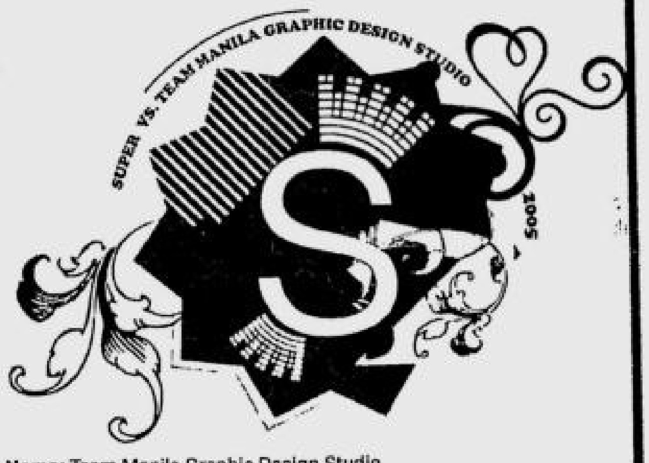
In the spirit of self-deconstruction and other slightly metaphysical concepts—*o-ha!*—Super! asked four artists to distort, subvert and reinterpret our cute and colorful logo. The resulting masterpieces, seen here, playfully sum up the words "deface value."



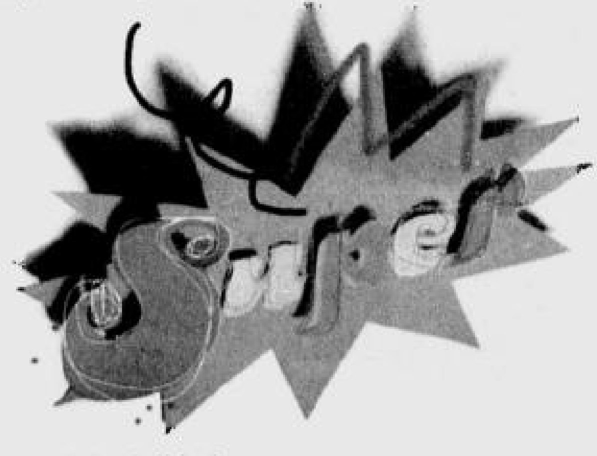
Name: Marcushiro
My logo is Super! because: serendipity created it
When I was 2, I remember: the cool sunlit mornings
I spent my sophomore year: hiding from my crush
I stay Super! by: staying true to the game



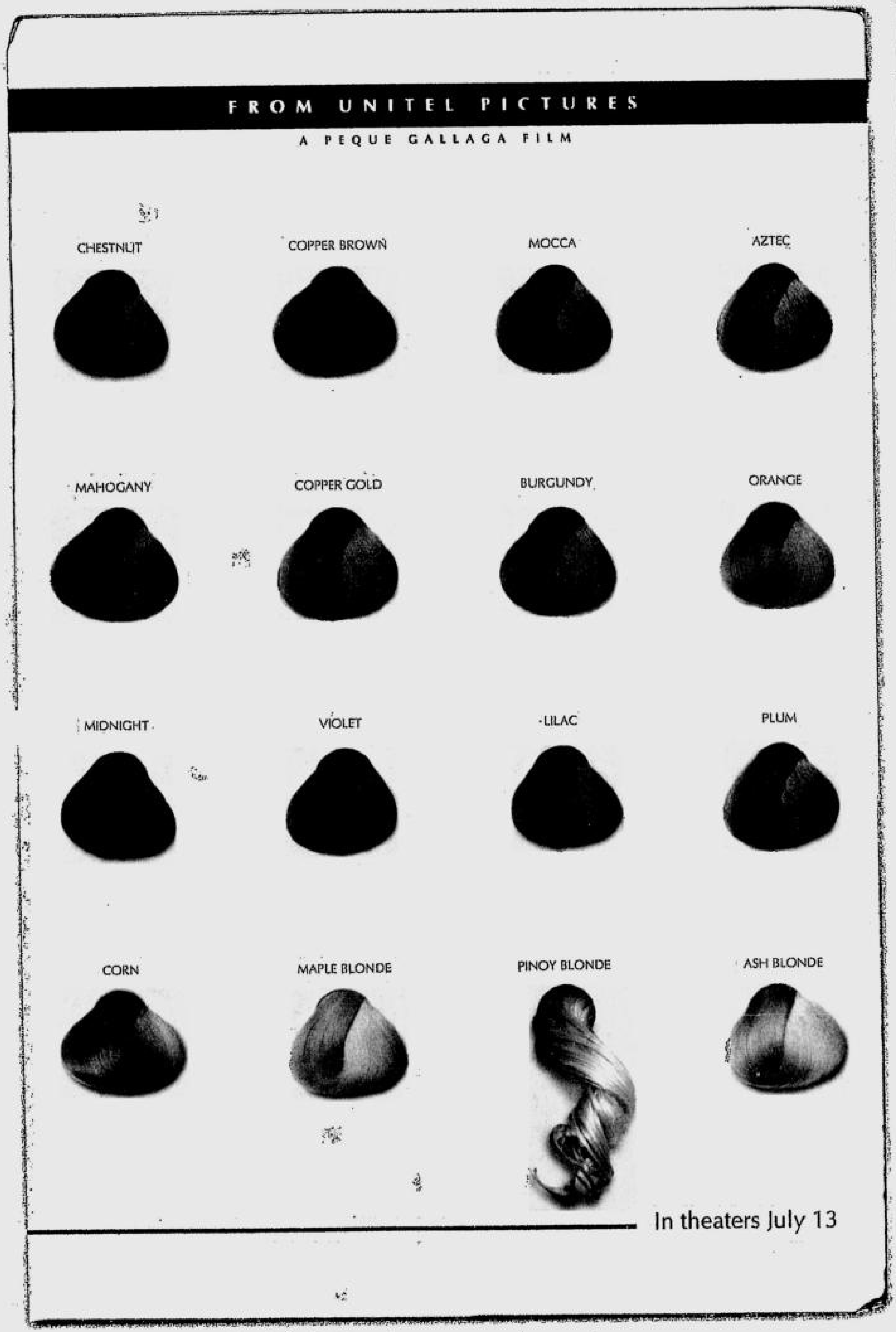
Name: Bru
My logo is Super! because: it's not a logo, or is it?
When I was 2, I remember: having too much fun being a two-year-old (with an apple cut) to care about details
I spent my sophomore year: high school—moping. college—living life and breaking hearts.
I stay Super! by: gunning for what I want, and rocking your socks off.


SUPER VS. TEAM MANILA GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIO
2005
S

Name: Team Manila Graphic Design Studio
Our logo is Super! because: it's got royalty, a mohawk, spikes and a 500 lbs punch.
When we were 2, we remember: cloudy... very cloudy... it smelled like sharpened pencils and orange peel.
We spent our sophomore year: cloudy... still very cloudy... pulling all-nighters with the gang doing art projects....
We stay Super! by: surrounding ourselves with a talented, creative people... drinking a lot of orange juice... and keeping it low-key.



Name: Robert A. Alejandro
My logo is Super! because: anybody can make something like it from scrap paper.
When I was 2, I remember: I drew on walls and furniture.
I spent my sophomore year: running and running (marathon training).
I stay Super! by: continuing to learn (I'm learning how to make my website: www.raadesign.com)



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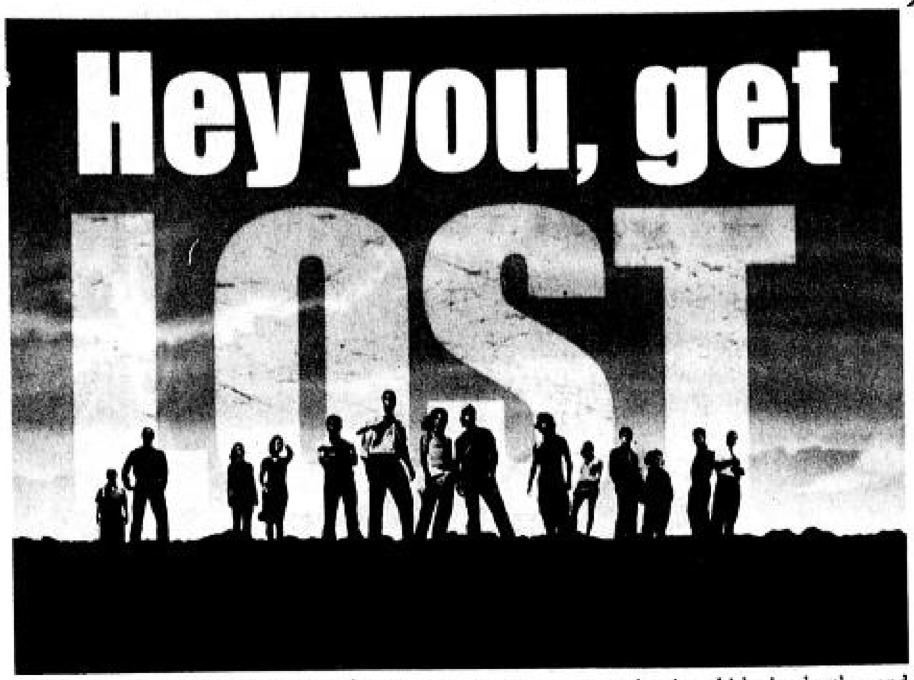


What the heck is the secret of the mystery island? And why is everything so damn weird?

"Good and evil, reward and punishment, are the only motives to a rational creature: these are the spur and reins whereby all mankind are set on work, and guided."

–John Locke

"No one knows where we are…the island acts as a huge mirror to your soul."

–theories of "Lost" actors

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

IT JUST hit me. Watching "Lost" is so much like all those mindscrew murder mystery games I used to play to pass the time on those dog day summer afternoons. It was a most creative way of getting a healthy serving of cerebral cereal for the day. Someone would toss out a bizarre scenario, like there's a man hanging dead on a high ceiling and there's a puddle of water below him with nothing else in the room—how did he manage to get up there to hang himself? Or, a man is shot dead inside his car but there were no bullet holes in his vehicle—how did that happen? Or, a man in Alaska freaks out and kills himself after finding out that he ate penguin soup—what the? Or, an unpopular midget becomes the president of a country—now how the hell did that happen? Then everyone around the couch, properly brain-fried, would slowly piece together the clues of the mystery after a logical series of yes-or-no questions.

The big diff is that back then, I didn't have to wait for another week or another season to get the right answers.

A 'Lost' cult

Now, it's the mystery of Oceanic Flight 815 that has set my brain cells into a spin cycle. The show has already spawned quite a cult following and has instigated many water-cooler conferences from the gym to the office to the backseat of the car to the dinner table, and well into cyberspace. Some of my more fanatic friends have already downloaded the whole season, and have thus managed to properly annoy the rest of "Lost" cultists who are patiently following the series on AXN.

Ready to get "Lost"? Cool, let's take off. En route from Sydney to L.A., Oceanic Flight 815 loses all radio communications and turns back to Fiji to attempt to land. The pilot is baffled as he finds out that they're a thousand miles off-track. Suddenly, at an altitude of 40,000 feet, the plane's tail ruptures and the fuselage crashes into an unknown, beautiful island. The 48 beached survivors then try to make sense of what the f**k just happened. As if the mystery of their plane crash isn't enough, they are faced with even more bizarre situations on the island a la "Lord of the Flies"-meets-"Survivor Pulau Tiga"-meets-"C.S.I."

The castaways

The motley crew of survivors are themselves shady characters (but then again, who among us don't have our own dark little secrets?) Through flashbacks interspersed within the story, we get glimpses of the characters' lives before the fatal crash. There's Jack, played by Matthew Fox, a brilliant surgeon who has issues with his alcoholic father. There's Kate (Evangeline Lilly), whom we find out later on was a wanted criminal handcuffed by a US Marshal on the flight. Charlie (played by Dominic Monaghan, or one of 'em hobbits in The Lord of the Rings Trilogy) is a fading rock star with a heroin problem. Sayid (Naveen Andrews) is a former Iraqi National Guard skilled in the ways of torturing prisoners, who is himself tortured by the loss of the woman he loves. Hurley (Jorge Garcia) is a tubby "dude" who adds comic relief to the angst-ridden contingent. John Locke (Terry O'Quinn) is an ex-cripple who mysteriously recovers after the plane crash. He is for me the most intriguing of all because he seems to foster a deeper connection with the island than any of the rest. Add to this ragtag team a Korean couple who can't speak a syllable of English (or can they? Sandara's peeps can be a precocious bunch!), a con man, a pregnant Aussie, a bickering brother and sister (whom we find out later on are boning each other), and an African-American father and son trying to rebond after eight years of separation.

The castaways are subjected to so much weirdness far removed from "Gilligan's Island" or "Fantasy Island" or even Splash Island. Apart from trying to figure out each other, and what happened in mid-air, the island has all these maddening secrets. There's a mysterious man that keeps following Jack, but nobody else can see him. The castaways keep hearing howls and whispers from unknown enigmas in the jungle. They were attacked by a polar bear, like, in a tropical island. They discover a concealed metal hatchway, with no outside handle, embedded on the ground. They stumble upon a distress signal from a French woman that has been looping for 16 years. Then they discover that they are not alone on the island, that there are "Others," strangers who weren't part of the original passenger list who conveniently pop up each time someone or two needs to be murdered.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a pterodactyl!

What makes this show so damn riveting is the sheaf of theories that attempt to explain just what the hell is going on. In trying to piece the clues together, fans have conveniently transformed into Mensa brainiacs, pseudo-Sherlocks and yes, even religious cranks.

I'd say the most popular theory is that the castaways are stuck in the Bermuda Triangle. A lot of clues support this theory—the loss of radio communications in mid-air, the fact that Oceanic Flight 815 was suddenly a thousand miles off its flight path en route to Fiji, and the discovery of other ship and plane wreckages on the island. Some viewers hypothesize that the castaways are in Purgatory—that pitstop between heaven and hell where souls still unfit to enter the pearly gates undergo a sort of purification process to rectify their sins. Following this theory, none of the passengers actually survived the crash and thus their encounters on the island are actually karmic retributions for their past actions. Conspiracy theorists conclude that the whole thing is a grand, morbid government experiment (similar to the Philadelphia experiment) and that the island is akin to a Jurassic Park-type laboratory. I personally mulled over the Hollow Earth theory for a while, partly to explain the strange metal hatch the survivors found on the jungle ground. The Hollow Earth theory refers to the esoteric idea that the Earth has a hollow interior with a habitable inner surface. It was once a favorite concept of adventure literature writers, but now the notion is ridiculed as a pseudo-science because of substantial geological evidence disproving it. The island is also hypothesized to be Atlantis, Limbo, the mythical island Lemuria in the South Pacific, or a live alien creature.

By far, however, my favorite theory would be the one posed by a smartass surfer friend: they're actually on the other side of Boracay. Or Koh Samui in Thailand. Sooner or later they'll be rescued by the pothead backpackers who'll welcome them into their little hippie commune. Hooray!

Get a clue: a nitpicker's thoughts

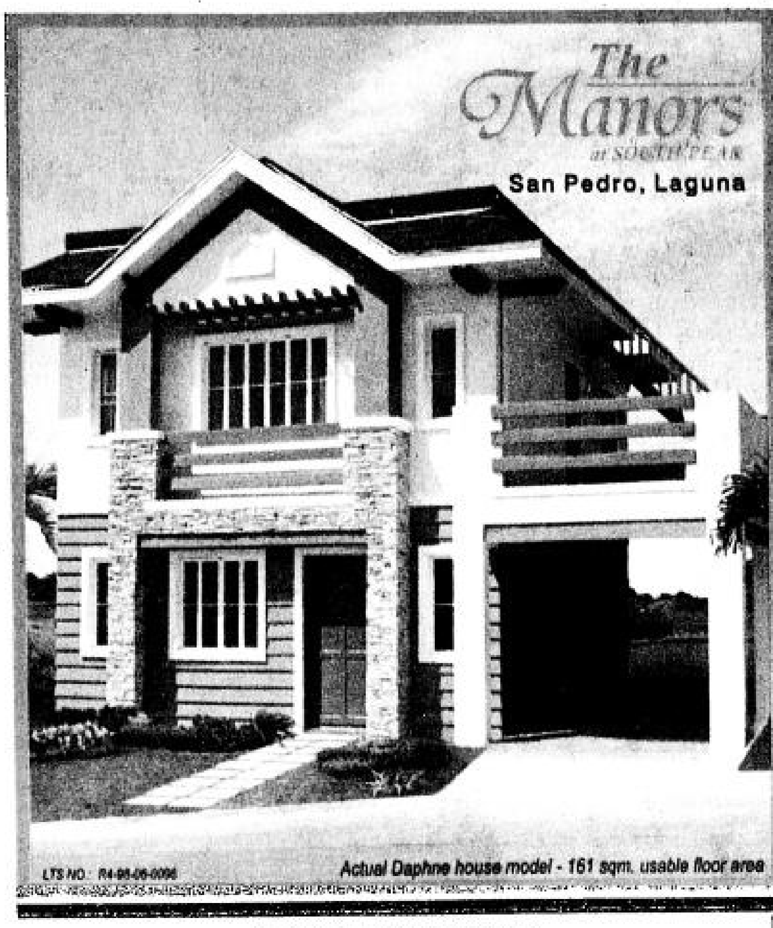
Though "Lost" is not your usual whodunnit, you do pick up a few tactics from watching or reading one too many murder mysteries in order to solve the riddle. Items, words, knowing glances are all clues that aren't just haphazardly thrown about, they usually call for closer scrutiny as they link to the bigger story. Peripheral thinking is key. What are the *other* things about the characters or events that are glazed over during those water cooler conferences?

Like what about the several literary and philosophical references in the show? One of the castaways was reading "Watership Down," the bunny-centric novel by Richard Adams, which could be read on one level as a darling little adventure of cute, furry rabbits. On another level, however, the book's themes are eerily similar to the themes of "Lost," as it delves into freedom, ethics, human nature and survival when the hardy wabbits are forced to flee their fragile community, and face extraordinary trials in pursuit of a new home.

And what about the character John Locke? I hardly think it's a mere coincidence by the producers of the show to christen him with the same name as "the Philosopher of Freedom." John Locke was one of the great philosophers of the early 18th century who aimed to determine the limits of human understanding. He once postulated that we can know with certainty that God exists, and that we can also know about morality with the same precision we know about mathematics, because we are the creators of moral and political ideas. The conspiracy theorist fans could make something of what he once wrote, "…*men live together by no other rules but that of beasts, where the strongest carries it… of necessity find another rise of government, another origin of political power…*" The title of Locke the character's episode is in fact called "Tabula Rasa," or the "blank state" which was the philosopher's theory describing how the mind is like a blank sheet of paper upon which ideas are imprinted.

Alright, alright, I'm a nitpicking geek, but one thing is for certain: if there is anything that got truly "lost," it's the hours of sleep from staying awake week after week just mulling over every episode. Given that, I'd like to say thank you to whoever invented Tylenol PMs.

Are you a nitpicking conspiracy theorist like me? Your anal-retentive behavior can actually get you somewhere. Win LOST collector gift packs including a trip for two to Badian Island Nature & Thalasso Spa Resort in Cebu. For more info, log on to www.axn-asia.com.



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SUPER PINOY!

Lesley Mobo designs for Diesel

PINOY AND PROUD. From Kalibo to London to the rest of the world, Lesley Mobo is Super!

By Puey Quiñones

IT WAS five years ago when I first heard of the name Lesley Mobo from senior designers Dennis Lustico, Jojie Lloren and Avel Bacudio. This designer from Aklan joined the Philippine Fashion and Design Competition in 1998 and was sent to Osaka and Chiba in Japan for his unique creation that's made from sea urchin.

Lesley earned his degree in Fashion Design, major in women's wear, in Central Saint Martin's in London where famous designers like Alexander McQueen and Zac Posen got their degrees. I had the opportunity to meet him personally through Jojie Lloren when he visited the Philippines almost three years ago. We got along very well because he is a very down to earth person.

Fast forward. After receiving the Diesel Award in Trieste, Italy, last year, Lesley was given the chance to design his own collection for Diesel.

This is yet another step on his way up the international fashion scene. No doubt about it, Lesley is one Filipino we should all be proud of.

Super! asked Lesley about his history, his collection and his passion for fashion.

What is your earliest fashion memory?

I can still clearly remember opening a magazine featuring Helmut Newton's provocative photograph titled "They're coming!" inside the Kalibo Pilot Elementary School library when I was in elementary. The photo now unquestionably ranks among Newton's best known images ever. It was such a memorable fashion image! The reconstruction was perfect. Looking back, Newton was without a doubt a silent influence to me, despite the fact that this iconic work is often misunderstood. This of course prompted me at the age of 9 to "read" pictures critically, to look at them more attentively and with greater awareness.

How would you describe your aesthetic?

Feminine appropriating something so masculine at the same time. And making something totally new from it.

Name something you wish you have designed?

My biggest regret so far is not to have invented denim. The evolution of denim has mirrored every major cultural phenomenon of the last century, from the work wear of Depression-era America, the practical overalls of war, the flares of the peace movement, the youthful styles of rock' n' roll to the designer labels of the consumerist 80s.

Who are your heroes, fashion or otherwise?

Helmut Newton, Inno Sotto, Paul Poiret, Melvin Sokolsky, Nick Knight, Phillip Glass and Jane Austin.

What is your favorite item of clothing?

A classic men's underwear from the "1879 Collection" I designed for Absolut Vodka Sweden.

In your wildest dreams who do you see wearing your clothes?

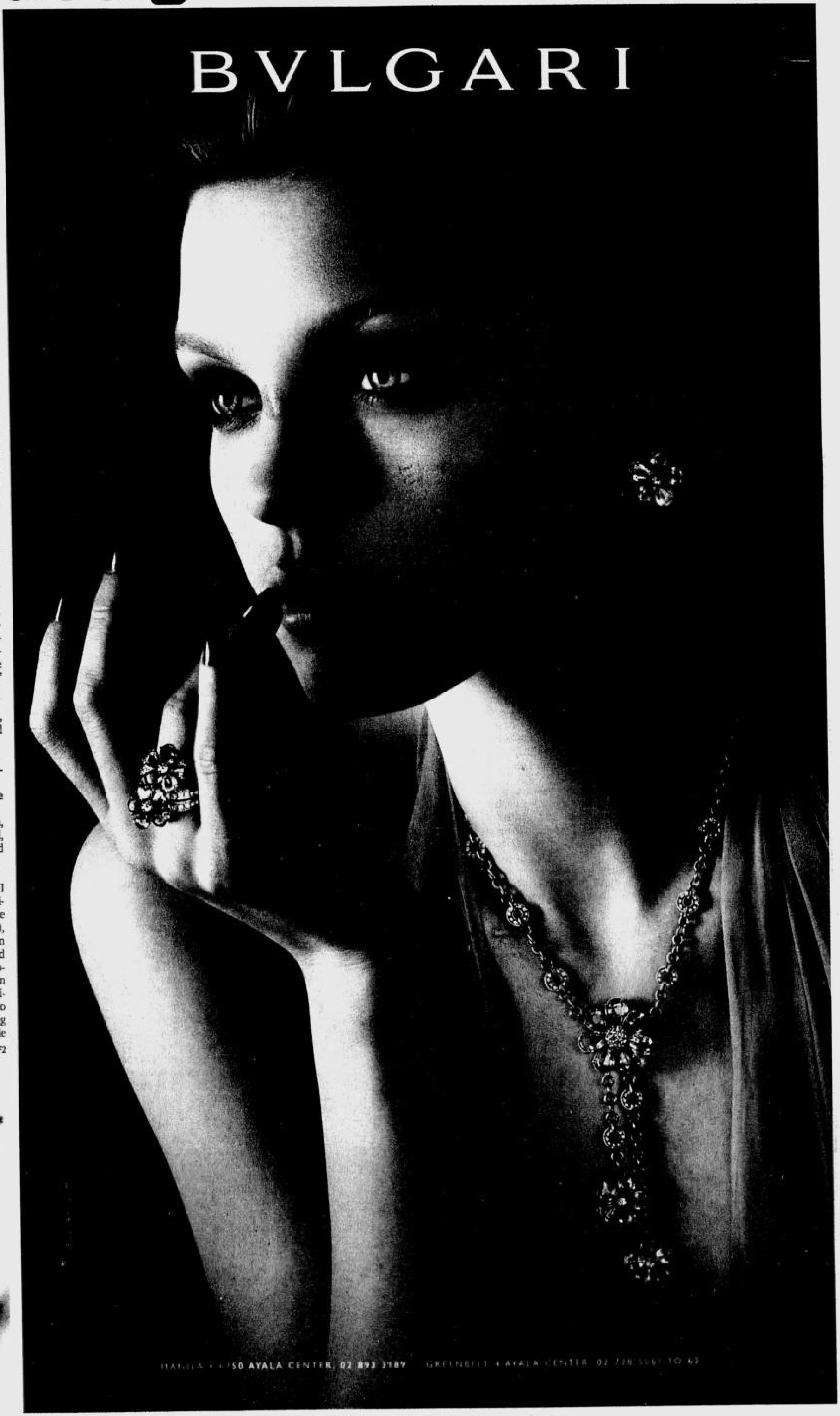
The mother of all rock and roll Patti Smith, French Vogue Editor-In-Chief Carine Roitfield, Juliette Lewis of "The Licks" and the artist called Skin.

Please tell us how you got the job at Diesel?

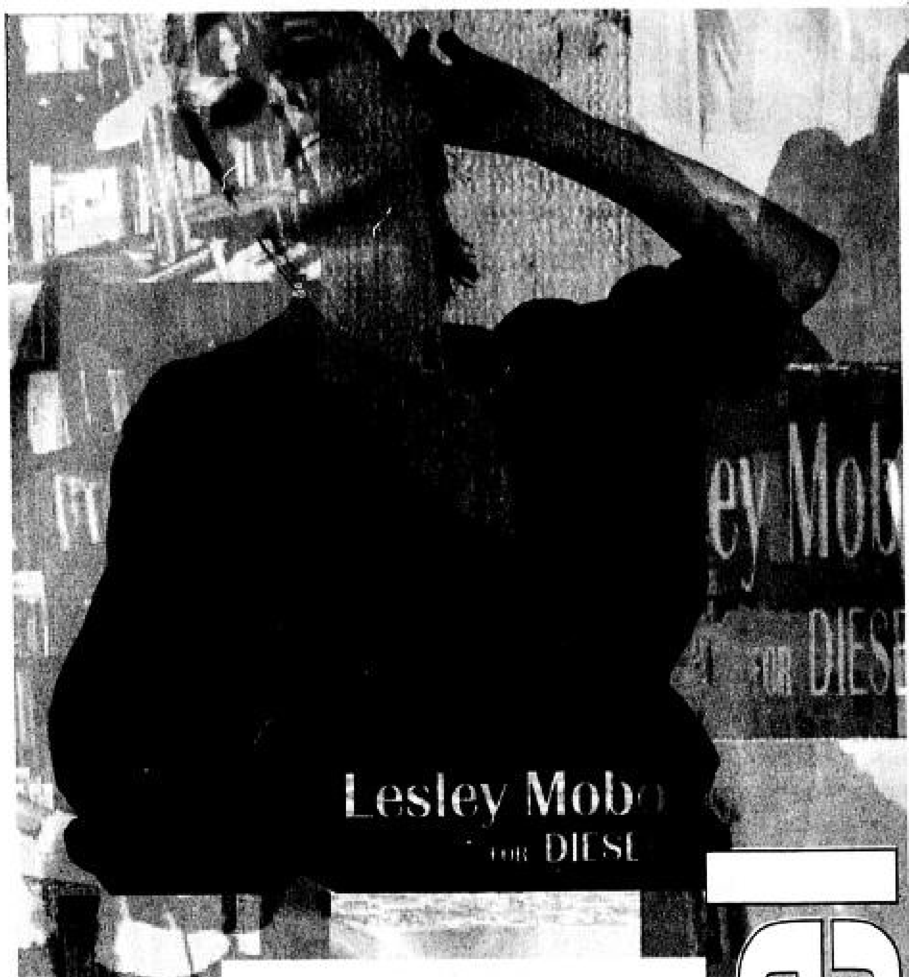
Well, it started in Trieste, Italy, last year when I received the Diesel Award. Erika Kurihara from i-D magazine was pushing my name to everyone (well, someone told me... let's put it that way), telling them that I had this amazing portfolio from my M.A collection at Saint Martin's and detailed research, etc. After I won the award I was introduced by Nicola from Eve Srl to the Diesel team during the dinner. Then Wilbert Das (creative director and head designer of Diesel) came over to me and talked about the possibility of me coming back next week to talk about designing a capsule

LESLEY/ F2

THE SO-CALLED cool factor can be an enormous challenge



Lesley Mobo designs for Diesel



From page F1

collection for Diesel.

What I like about ITS (International Talent Support) organized by Eve Srl (the event where I received the award) and sponsored by Diesel is that it's not like any other awards. It's practical and it is a real way to promote and support a young designer to grow further and that is relevant. I don't want to work with brands just because they had given me a chance to do so. I worked with them with full excitement because this sort of collaboration creates a good partnership. It creates new directions and territories.

We live in an era of change, where a new order of society, economy and even world politics is taking shape in front of our eyes. It is characterized by uncertainties and fears, but also endless possibilities of choices, and this is the right time where this sort of collaboration begins to function. It creates a profusion of creative and commercial dialogues. There's a sudden blending of solid and traditional know-how with modern creative energy. This unexpected clash of an established brand like Diesel with a fringe talent creates new solutions in the fashion industry. Nothing could be more ideal than joining forces together (between the "established and the new") in terms of collaborations and partnerships to understand and shape the future. People always ask why Diesel should pick young designers like me in preference instead of the established designers to work with.

It's simply because these unusual pairings create new interest in products, design, retail, marketing, cultures and social venues. It's a mutual inspiration.

This is a great way of testing my ability too as a young designer in adapting to another market. After months and months of traveling back and forth to Italy for collection briefing with Wilbert Das, collection planning, research, production, fittings, planning the collection launch, photo shoots, press launch, etc., it is easy for me to sum up how Diesel really works.

Diesel does more than making clothes. It has created a huge vocabulary in terms of identity and is capable of even provoking emotions. The ethic is not to follow established trends and is largely unaffected by fashion fads, it always pays careful attention to detail and focuses on quality materials and production techniques. It is the position of the "Pret-a-Porter of casual wear."

It is known that Diesel has long been a supporter of innovation, always keen to push boundaries with their own lines. And I found it an easy match to work with not just in design but also in terms of my personal brand ethos and Diesel's brand identity.

How is it working with them?

It is the most fantastic atmosphere you could ever imagine—free of free range fashion sluts and riverside bitching. Hats off to Renzo Rosso (owner/founder of Diesel) down to the production team, marketing team, design team, accountants, and receptionist and even to the car drivers who patiently wait and collect me from the airport for a two-hour drive to my hotel every time I fly there from London. They are the most open minded people on earth I have known and the most curious people of all too! They always ask me about the Philippines.

Describe your Diesel collection:

Gianni Versace meets Yohji Yamamoto in Woodland… selling very very well… so far! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Is pretty and polished dead?

I strongly believe that there is no such thing as "dead" in fashion really. The biggest problem we have in this sort of industry is that we chew our creative solutions like bubble gum and stick them out to the nearest bin in sight. It is rather of a waste if you don't mind me saying this. We of course can't argue that there is an issue of having only 2 chances a year of selling a collection. But that in itself needs clever strategy/solutions from individual labels or companies. I've just attended the seasonal presentation of "Moda In" Tessuto and Accessory-trend forecasting for Fall-Winter 2006/2007 collections (colors, materials, fabrics and accessories) at the British Academy. The majority of creative direction that most Italian textile mills and suppliers will be following in two seasons' time would be towards using some essential components/visual elements of modern day life presented by cultural eclecticism.

One can be or do different things, motivated and overcome by contradictory and opposite aspects. This directive or like any other directives always asks personal suggestions, inputs and interpretations… and therefore it is a major sin to follow these phrases word after word.

Sometimes I try to argue about this with some people: Do we really want to follow trends because we have to or we're just all institutionalized? It's like bloody education, isn't it? Trends serve as a loose seasonal guidance for the industry. It is normally presented in 3 to 5 sets of moods and inspirations per season. A designer might pick one or two out of five but still that doesn't give you any guarantee/assurance of good sales. Of course, it is an edge to have some sort of awareness of trends but I also believe that a unique voice/philosophy and a strong handwriting/identity in design are enough to draw any international buyer's attention into one point… nothing kills the concept of cool faster than overexposure and the epidemic adoption of a trend!

How will the rest of the decade look?

Madam, I can't predict things like this as my talents are only limited to fashion designs. Fortune telling is not included… Ha! Ha! Ha! But I am hoping the rest of the decade will create a new premium, a time for a new definition of the top end of the market. Luxury, as the obvious symbol of status and wealth, is tired (this applies to everything). The purely ostentatious seems suddenly vulgar and passé.

There will be a moved up-market limited editions and differentiated goods. Beyond the product, the new premium will be the rare and hard-to-come-by in a changed world—time, experience, service, quality and nostalgia. Be fast in anticipating consumer desires and needs. It will be all about slow in making and consuming products and a direction towards the cultural and emotional context of a product rather than the logo, the value rather than the cost. It's all a wishful thinking I suppose.

Who are the new design talents the world should watch for?

My fellow designers/good friends Austrian designer Peter Pilotto who graduated with an M.A. in Fashion at Antwerp, Belgium, and also a fellow nominee at ITS3 for the Diesel Award, Christian Boaro (at the moment) who works as Domenico Dolce's assistant designer in Milan for Dolce & Gabbana, Canadian born-London based designer Jean Pierre-Braganza, the adorable designer Ashish… all of them.

Is there something you want to change in fashion?

Certainly. It would be great if we could at least chew all our solutions for even at least an hour or two! In a fickle, superficial, short attention span world, holding on to something such as "what is in and what is not in"—the so called cool factor can be an enormous challenge. Try too hard and you'll reek of desperation, sit on your laurels and the next time you look up you'll discover you've been left behind. The only way to succeed over this I believe is by chewing it for a reasonable time till the last juices drop, i.e., to constantly evolve without ever losing sight of your DNA.

Believing that good design lasts forever, the catwalk mentality must also never be adhered to from a brand perspective. Respect fashion but don't fall victim to it. I believe that a designer or a brand can remain cool even if it slips in and out of fashion—if you believe in what you do but never becomes complacent. Sometimes it's cool to be uncool for a while.

When are you coming back?

I should have been back ages ago but so much work so I'll probably be there around mid-December.

Obesity In North Pole ~ Spring/Summer 2005

Lesley Mobo's collection for Diesel will be available in the following Diesel's major stores this Spring/Summer:

Diesel Denim Gallery, Tokyo
Diesel Flagship Store, London King's Road
Diesel Concept Store, Milan Ticinese
Diesel Concept Store, Paris Marais
Diesel Store, Antwerp
Diesel Concept Store, Berlin Mitte
Diesel Denim Gallery, New York

On the 24th of June-September 2005, Lesley Mobo's "Obesity in North Pole" collection will be part of the large exhibition in Dusseldorf Museum in Germany called "New Generation Fashion" (Floating Fashion) an avant-garde fashion exhibition from around the globe. To this aim, the Dusseldorf city museum will act as a forum, which will discuss the subject of fashion at various levels. Discussion forums and an international symposium that provide a discursive analysis of fashion at an academic level. Aimed to explore a key issue: In today's international fashion design—are there any tendencies remaining towards a culturally and socio-ethnologically influenced style—in other words a kind of "local fashion"—or has "global fashion" conquered, as in so many other areas of life?

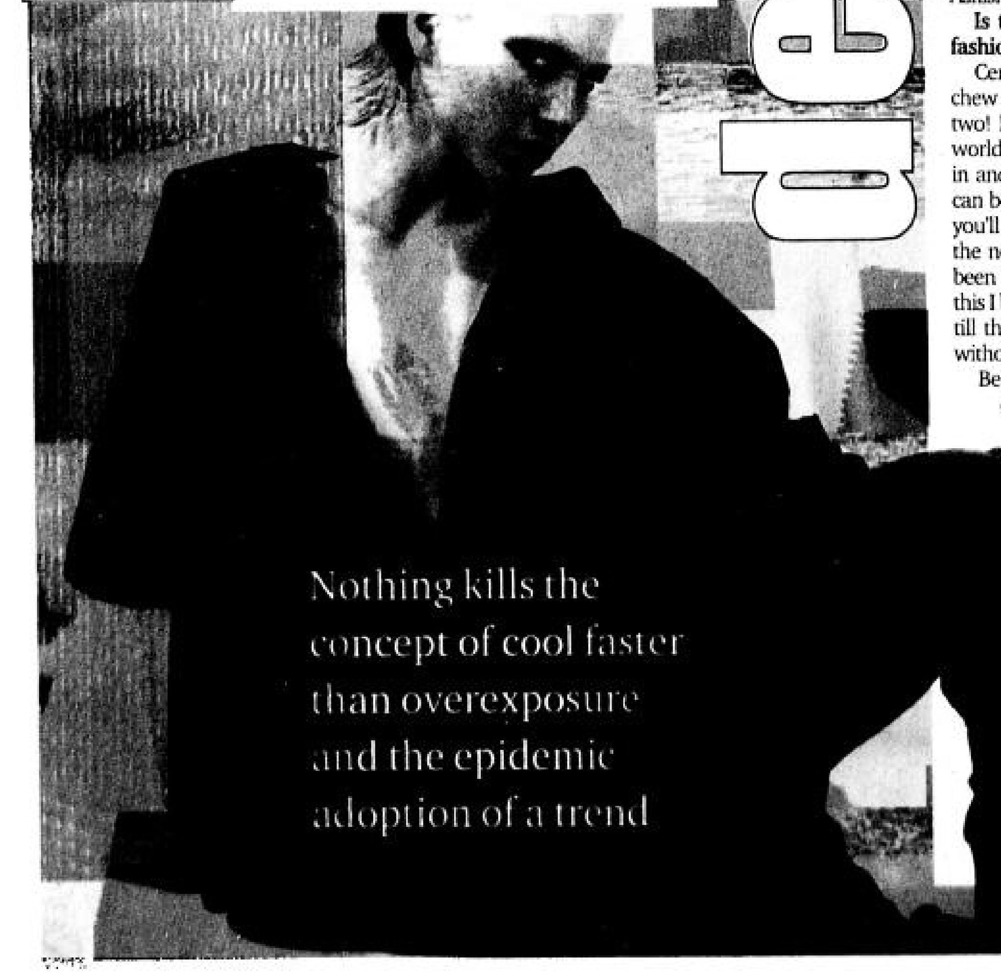
The exhibition will also attempt to explore this issue from varying perspectives and through the use of various mediums, such as design, prototypes, photographs, reports and biographies.

Lesley Mobo has presented his collections in:

Saint Martin's College, Fashion and Textile Bldg., London, April 2004. York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, May 2002

Natural History Museum, London, June 2004. Victoria and Albert Museum "Fashion in Motion," London, August 2004. London Fashion Week Tent Autumn/Winter 2004, Duke of York Headquarters King's Road, London, February 2004. Magazzino 5 in the Old Docks of Trieste, Italy, July 2004. Oxford Union Society, Oxford University, Oxford, England, Nov 2004. The Hospital (Club), Covent Garden, London, March 9, 2005

Hotel Sheraton (Diana Majestic), Milan, Italy, March 24, 2005



Nothing kills the concept of cool faster than overexposure and the epidemic adoption of a trend

Superfriends! Superfriends! Superfriends! Superfriends!

Text and photos by David Milan

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I lost my privacy when: My mom took the locks from my room when I was 17
I want to know what's happening between: the lead singers of The Used and My Chemical Romance

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Erika Golez
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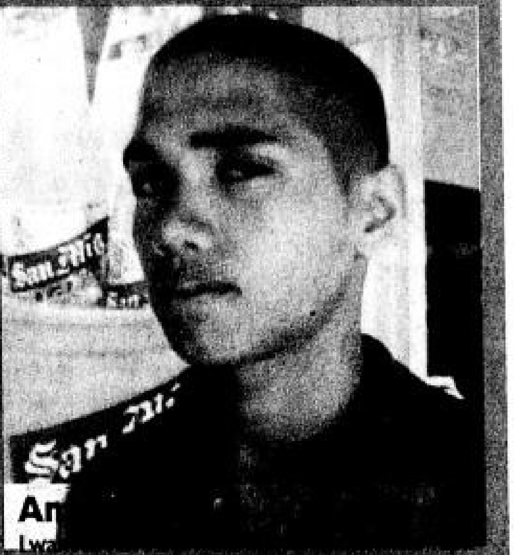
I lost my privacy when: My parents snuck into my stuff
I want to know what's happening between: Our country and the rest of the world

Email me at: pviolago@yahoo.com

Princess Violago
I want to have a private conversation with: Princess Alexandra of Denmark
I lost my privacy when: My parents read my journal!
I want to know what's happening between: Gloria and Garci, because I really really want to know the truth!



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I wa [illegible]
Joe
[illegible]
[illegible]
Tapa Joe and The Mall, it's crazy!

Email me at: [illegible]_dl2@hotmail.com

Nikki Duque
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I lost my privacy when: My mom gave birth to me. Imagine, they all saw me naked!?
I want to know what's happening between: Kris Aquino and James Yap… or not!

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Anna Rubio
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I want to know what's happening between: Girls and being vain.

24/7 SUPER! EVENT GUIDE

Boredom Busters

By Paolo R. Reyes and Janine Cuenca-Dario

HABITUÉS of our town's hotspots will tell you that, even on an ordinary weekday night, restaurants and bars brim with pockets of partygoers anxious to unwind at their favorite watering holes. The growing popularity of recurring weekly gigs has made our nightscape even more alluring, as Manila slowly evolves into a city that never sleeps.

Classic 99 @ Embassy, 10 p.m. tonight

Due to insistent public demand, the great "Classic 99" party is back, featuring another all-star cast of top DJs: Manolet Dario, David Jacob, Roman Mojica, and Martin Pulgar. Expect their much vaunted anthemic house and trance sets circa 1995-2000.The party starts at 10 p.m. tonight at the Embassy SuperClub, The Fort, Taguig. Door charge at P400, inclusive of 2 Smirnoff Ice. Call 816-4195.

Heaven: White Party 2005 , 10 p.m. tonight

The Manila Party Consortium, in celebration of Pride Weekend 2005, takes you to celestial heights tonight with Heaven: The White Party at the Maria Orosa Strip in Malate. Get high on the music spun by DJs Cocoy Puyat, Travis Monsod, Toy Armada and Manolet Santos, backed by the soul-stirring performances of Aiza Seguerra, Ruffa Mae Quinto, Bituin Escalante, and Michael Cruz. Prizes at stake for those who dress best in white. Call 404-3662 or log on to www.bed.com.ph/whiteparty.

URCC 6, 8 p.m. tonight

Manila's premiere martial arts tournament, URCC (The Universal Reality Combat Championship), returns once more to hallowed grounds tonight. See all your favorite warriors in one wild night of unleashed fury as they battle it out for the six championship titles. 8 p.m. at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater, Parañaque. Call 911-5555.

Other Super! events this week:

June 25, Saturday

White House Ball at Government; Tropical Depression at 70s Bistro; Lush with Patch and Paolo Abaya at Absinth; Dancehall Saturdays at V Bar; Kearney Street at Dusit Hotel

June 26, Sunday

White Party 2005 Foam Party at Sanctuario; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; Maxime Acker exhibit at Alliance Française de Manilla; The Man Who Planted Trees at Glorietta 4 Art Center

June 27, Monday

Parokya ni Edgar at 70s Bistro; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gwellos; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Route 70 at Dusit Hotel; Onda Latina at Café Havana Greenbelt

June 28, Tuesday

Velvet Party with DJ Scratchmark at Absinth; Affinity at 70s Bistro; Bloomfields at Dish; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of 67 at Captain's Bar; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Mocha and Spin Art at Dusit Hotel; Extreme at Suburbia

June 29, Wednesday

Superklasse with Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy; Singles Night at Temple; Sing India Band at Bollywood; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Mobb at Captain's Bar

June 30, Thursday

SPIT at Mag:net Cafe Katipunan; Phuture Thursdays at Bed; Chocolate Milk at Government; Acoustic Nights at Bollywood; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Myxtreme & Silk at Dusit Hotel; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Malate; Noel Cabangon at 70s Bistro

July 1, Friday

Beauty and the Beast at Meralco Theater; Musik and CouchLab DJs at Embassy; Soul Fridays at V Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple; Mai Castro at Café Havana Malate; Fantastic Friday at Prince of Jaipur

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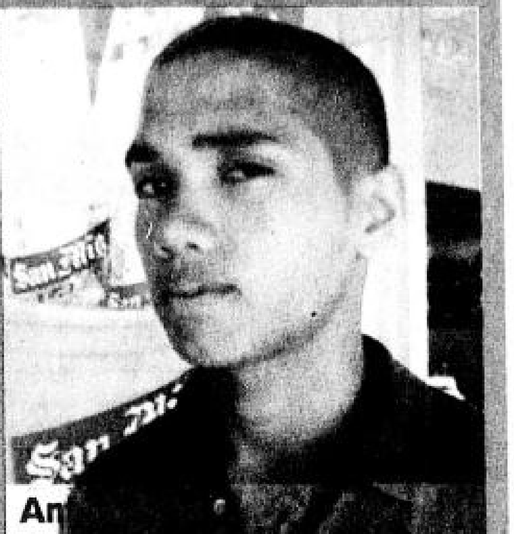

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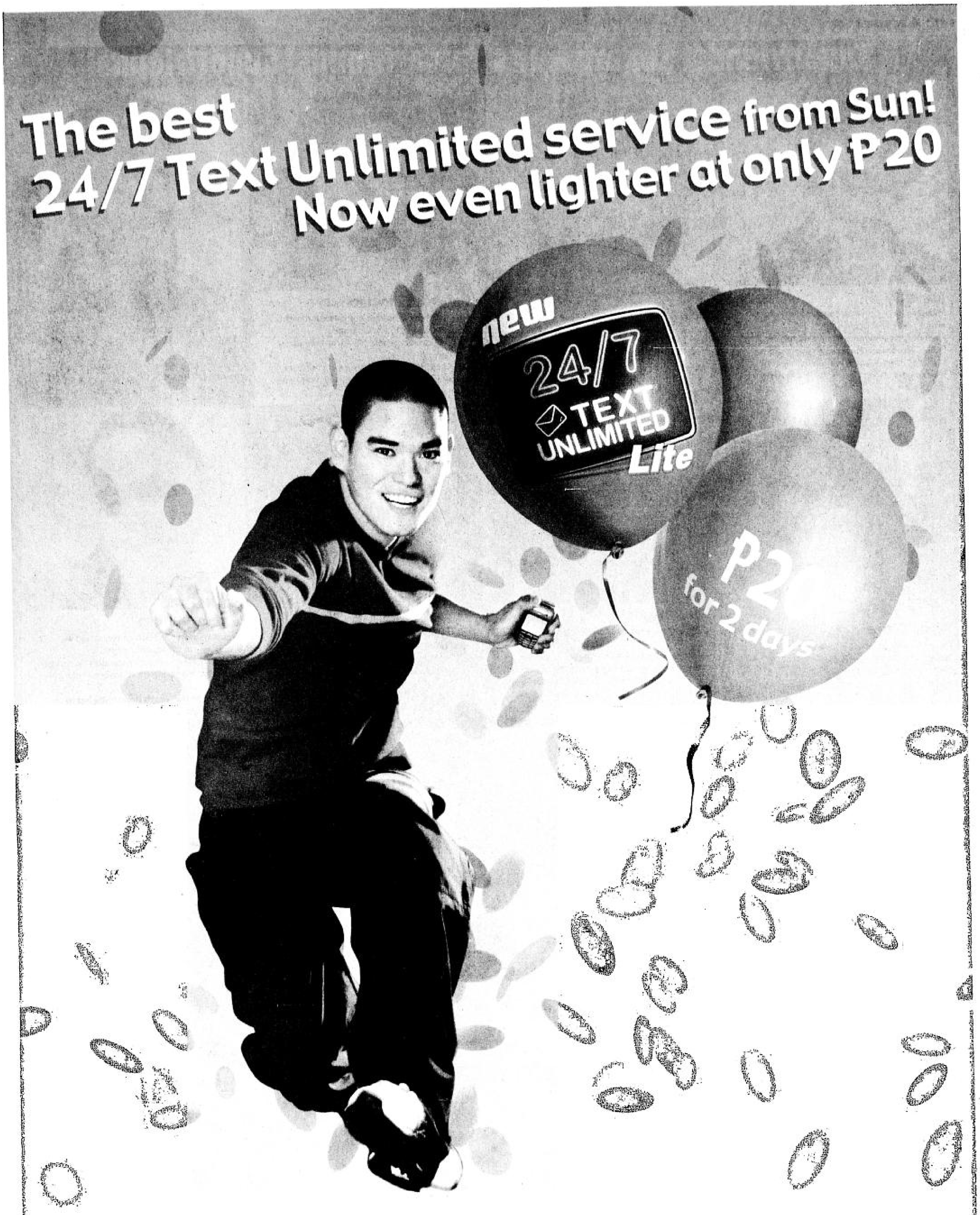

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